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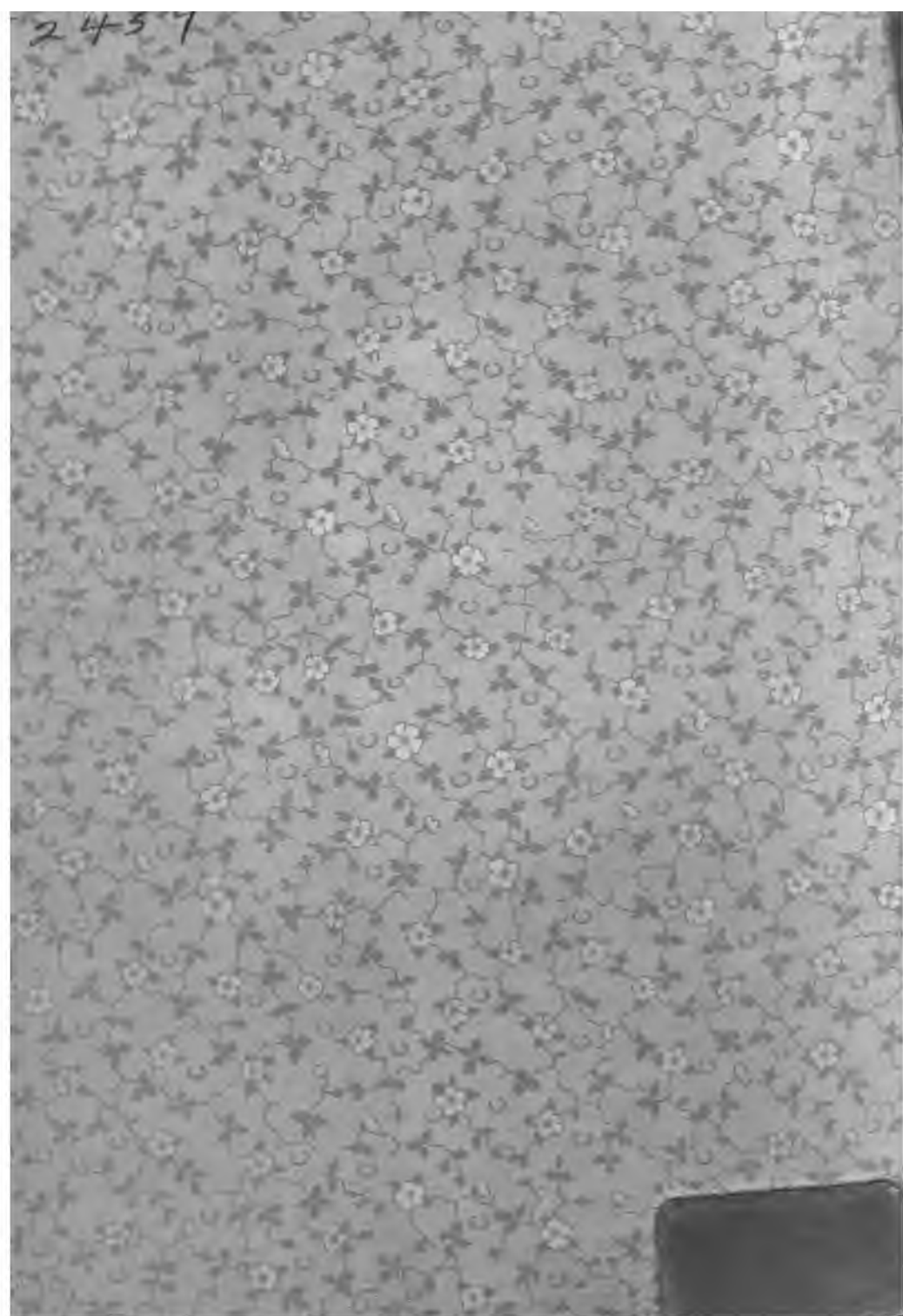
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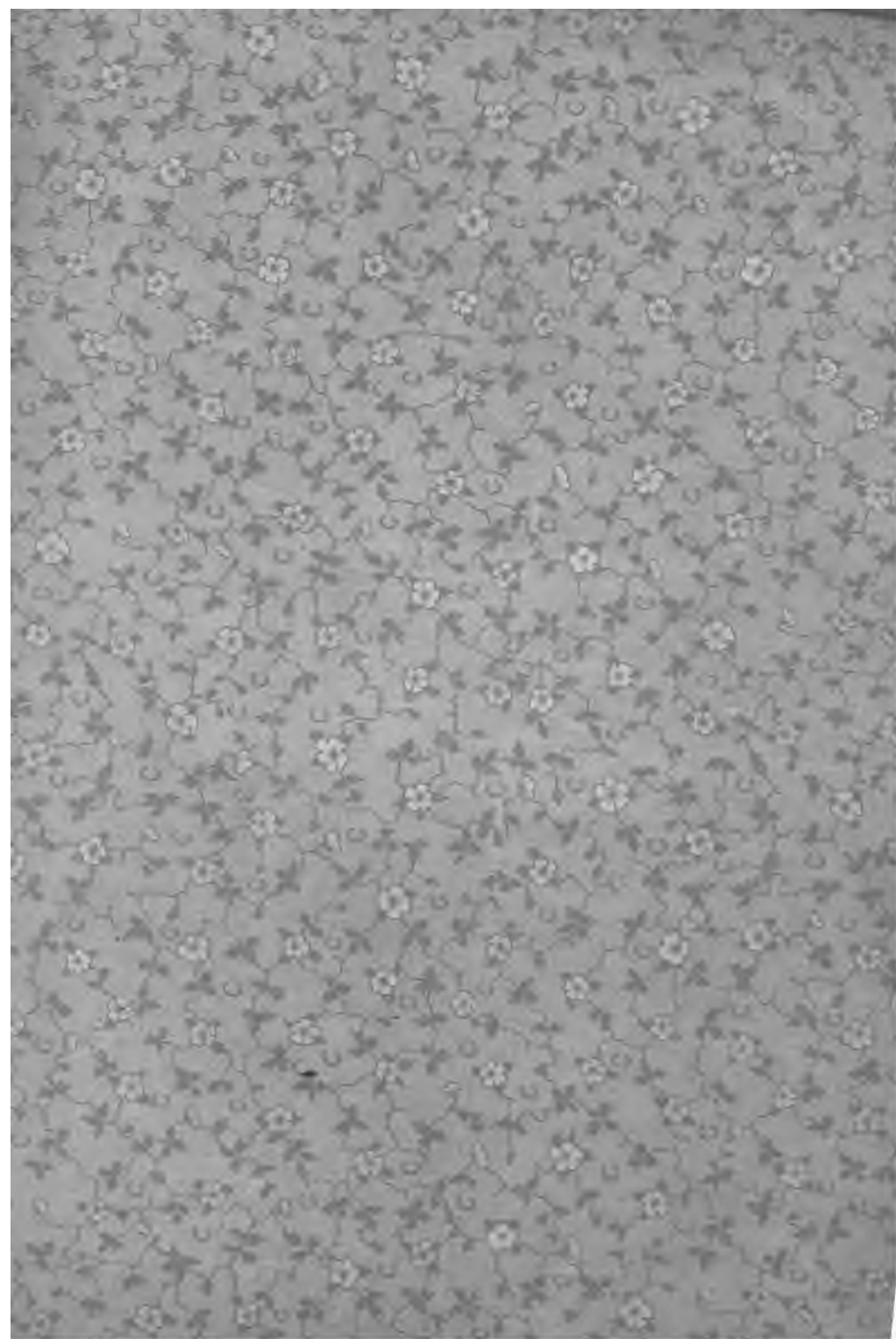


OUR AUTHO



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OUR
ALBUM of AUTHORS,

A CYCLOPEDIA OF POPULAR LITERARY PEOPLE,

BY

FRANK M'ALPINE,

EDITOR OF "TREASURES FROM THE POETIC WORLD," "TREASURES
FROM THE PROSE WORLD" AND "POPULAR
POETIC PEARLS."

Sold Only by Subscription.

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PREFACE.

OUR ALBUM OF AUTHORS gathers into one volume a knowledge of the men and women who have made the standard literature of the world. Our text-books are too brief for the general public. Our encyclopedias are too expensive for the masses; besides they contain hundreds of minor authors who have added no new thoughts or noble impulses to the literature of our race.

General readers have not the time to crush a mountain of quartz to get a grain of gold, or to hunt the sands of the earth to find a single diamond, or to search through forty centuries that have been prolific of authors to find the thoughts and the impulses of those who form the chief literary constellation of the ages.

OUR ALBUM OF AUTHORS takes the reader over the entire field, and introduces him to the representative men and women in the various departments of literature. It presents only a few minor writers, and these were selected either because they are very popular, or because the reader may learn a valuable lesson from their lives and writings.

This volume will be valuable to those wishing to make up a library, as it gives a list of books published by standard authors and names each author's best works. It will be valuable to teachers for reference and study, because it not only gives extended sketches of the best authors, but it gives the critical estimation of each author's writings. It will be valuable to parents, because it carries their children into the society of good books, and makes them acquainted with the men and women of the grandest, purest, and noblest thoughts. It calls attention to the fact that there is no royal road to greatness in any department of life, but that the crown is gained only after years of patient, ceaseless, and earnest toil. It shows that true nobility has come from lowly birth, and that success has been gained in

spite of circumstances. Such lessons, with the examples given, will urge the young to greater efforts, and to higher aims in life. In short, OUR ALBUM OF AUTHORS will be most valuable to all who love the society of noble lives and elevated thoughts.

As a few words of earnest advice or remonstrance which a boy hears at the right time, from a man whom he respects, may affect that boy's character for life, so a good book, placed in his hands at the right time, may mould his character and give direction to the remainder of his life.

With earnest wishes for the greatest good of the greatest number, this volume enters upon its mission.

FRANK McALPINE.

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OUR ALBUM OF AUTHORS.

JOSEPH ADDISON.

JOSEPH ADDISON was born at Milston, Wiltshire, England, May 1, 1672, and he died in Holland House, June 17, 1719. His father was Lancelot Addison, Dean of Lichfield. Joseph had ample opportunity to acquire an education. He passed through several schools, including the Charter-House. At the age of fifteen, he went to Oxford, where "he was entered a student of Queen's College," but in two years Addison was elected a scholar of Magdalen College. In 1693 he took his master's degree. During the next eleven years he devoted himself entirely to study, observation and writing. Although his productions in this period gained him local fame, yet they added nothing toward his permanent celebrity. There are three distinct features in Addison's life work. He appears as poet, essayist and politician. We can become acquainted with him best by studying his work in each department separately. His first intention was to prepare for the ministry, but his ability attracted the attention of the Whig party, to which he belonged, and its leaders sought to prepare him for political work. Upon recommendation of Lord Somers, Addison obtained a pension of £300 per annum, to enable him, as he acknowledges in a memorial address to the crown, "to travel, and qualify himself to serve His Majesty." In the summer of 1699 he crossed into France, where he learned the French language. At the close of

THACKERAY.

WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY was born at Calcutta in 1811, and died suddenly on December 24, 1863.

His family was originally from Yorkshire. His father, at the time of his death being but thirty years of age, was secretary to the Board of Revenue at Calcutta.

The son, with his widowed mother, left India, and arrived in England in 1817. "When I first saw England," he said in one of his lectures, "she was in mourning for the young Princess Charlotte, the hope of the empire. I came from India as a child, and our ship touched at an island on the way home, where my black servant took me a walk over rocks and hills, till we passed a garden where we saw a man walking. 'That is he,' said the black man; 'that is Bonaparte. He eats three sheep every day, and all the children he can lay hands on.' There were people in the British dominions besides that poor black who had an equal terror and horror of the Corsican ogre." Young Thackeray was placed in the Charterhouse School of London, which had formerly received as grown boys or scholars the melodious poets Crashaw, Addison, Steele, and John Wesley. From the Charterhouse Thackeray went to Trinity College, Cambridge, and, whilst residing there in 1829, he made his first appearance as an author. In conjunction with a college friend he carried on for a short time a light humorous weekly miscellany entitled "The Snob."

In 1830-'31 he was one of "at least a score of young English lads who used to live at Weimar for study, or sport, or society," and who were received with the kindest hospitality by the Grand Duke and Duchess. He did not remain at college to take his degree. His great ambition was to be an artist,



Wm Thackeray



CHARLES DICKENS.

there he moves supreme. Another obvious quality of all his genius is its overflowing fullness of allusion and illustration, recalling his own description of a great philosopher or scholar. "Not one who depends simply on an infinite memory, but also on an infinite and electrical power of combination, bringing together from the four winds, like the angel of the resurrection, what else were dust from dead men's bones, into the unity of breathing life."

He was a born critic and dreamer, a logician by instinct and culture, a student by choice, a scholar by right of conquest of the stores of many minds, a writer of English of the first quality by dint of native command of language and long study and practice. A short and fragile, but well proportioned frame, a shapely and compact head, a face beaming with intellectual light, with rare, almost feminine beauty of feature and complexion, a fascinating courtesy of manner, and a fullness, swiftness, and elegance of silvery speech,—such was the irresistible "mortal mixture of earth's mould" that men named De Quincey. He possessed in a high degree what the American poet Lowell calls "the grace of perfect breeding, everywhere persuasive, and nowhere emphatic;" and his whole aspect and manner exercised an undefinable attraction over every one, gentle or simple, who came within his influence.

CHARLES DICKENS.

CHARLES DICKENS was born at Landport, in Portsea, England, February 7, 1812, and on the 9th of June, 1870, he passed away. His remains repose in Westminster Abbey.

His father was a clerk in the Navy Pay Office, stationed at Portsmouth, when Charles was born, but subsequently served in the same capacity at Chatham and London. The father was industrious, but failed to accumulate money very rapidly. Mrs. Dickens was a lady of energy and culture, and from her the boy received the rudiments of Latin. The father became

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER.

J. F. COOPER was born at Burlington, New Jersey, September 15, 1789, and he died of dropsy, at Cooperstown, New York, in 1851.

His father was a person of ability, who served the public as judge and as member of Congress. The boy was reared on his father's estate near Lake Otsego. In that then wild region Cooper may have received impressions which were valuable in his delineations of border life and character.

His school life began at Albany and New Haven. At the age of thirteen he entered Yale College, where he studied for three years. The youngest student on the rolls, he yet sustained himself in his classes and gained a good education. In his sixteenth year he entered the United States navy, where he served for six years. Cooper made a few voyages to perfect himself in seamanship. Having obtained a commission as lieutenant, he married, and resigning his commission in 1811, entered upon a life of literary labor. He settled at Westchester, where, in 1819, he produced "Precaution," a novel of the fashionable school. The book was published anonymously and attracted but little attention. It was taken for granted that a new writer was skirmishing under an assumed name to test his ability. The little attention given to the first book, encouraged the author to try again, hence, in 1821, appeared "The Spy," a powerful and interesting romance, founded upon incidents connected with the American Revolution. The great success of "The Spy" at once established the author's popularity; and, in 1823, his fame was still more increased by "The Pioneers," the first of the Leatherstocking series, and "The Pilot," a bold and dashing sea story. The above works placed Cooper in a very favorable light before the public. He at once





VICTOR HUGO.

hundredth publication. He is said to have kept two secretaries busy writing while he dictated. When the hour came for him to commence his literary task for the day, he commenced walking around in the room, his head slightly elevated, and his eyes looking upward in an angle of about forty-five degrees. Under these circumstances he dictated the matter and language of his works, while his secretaries wrote down the sentences as they fell from his lips.

He died August 22, 1885, and was given a public funeral and burial. He was 83 years old on his last birthday, the 26th of February.

LEIGH HUNT.

JAMES HENRY LEIGH HUNT was born at Southgate, England, October 19, 1784, and his singularly eventful life closed at Putney, on August 28, 1859.

His father, from West India, settled at Philadelphia, and entered upon the practice of law. His mother was the daughter of a Philadelphia merchant. Leigh Hunt was educated at Christ's Hospital. He was prevented from entering the university on the account of an impediment in his speech. His school life was creditable, but not specially brilliant. He left college at the age of fifteen; and for some time after did nothing, as he himself said, but visit his school-fellows, haunt book stalls, and write verse. In 1802 his father collected Leigh's poems and published them under the title of "Juvenilia." As most of the poems were written by the youth at the age of sixteen, they were considered good.

In 1805 his brother started a paper called "The News," and Leigh Hunt went to live with him and write the theatrical criticisms for its columns. He also secured a position as clerk in the War Office. In 1808 he left the

J. H. PAYNE.

JOHN HOWARD PAYNE was born in New York, June 9, 1792, and died in Tunis, April 10, 1852.

His mind matured early as seen in the fact that at the age of thirteen, while a clerk in a counting house, he edited a weekly journal known as the "Thespian Mirror;" and while attending Union College he published another periodical called "The Pastime."

At the age of seventeen he became an actor in the Park Theatre, of New York. He appeared as "Young Marvel," and at other times acted in Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and other large places. At the age of twenty-one he appeared at Drury Lane Theatre, London, as "Young Marvel," and for twenty years he pursued a career of varied success in England as actor, manager and playwright. He translated French dramas and produced original plays and adaptations, including "Brutus," "Therese, or the Orphan of Geneva," and "Clari." The first, produced in 1818, with Edmund Kean in the principal part, still holds possession of the stage. "Clari," which was produced as an opera, contains the celebrated song, "Home, Sweet Home," which alone preserves Payne's name from oblivion. He also produced "Charles the Second."

Returning to the United States in 1832, he was appointed American consul at Tunis in 1841. This office he held at the time of his death in 1852.

"Home, Sweet Home" touched the popular affections of the people, hence the world will never let it die; and with that beautiful home poem must forever be associated the name of John Howard Payne. Without that song he must have been forgotten, as he was only a precocious youth and a man of ordinary ability. But the one inspiration sang his name into immortal life.



John Howard Payne



WILL CARLETON.

works consist in the individual portraits they contain, and the strong personal sympathies or antipathies they describe. He has a clear and penetrating insight into human nature; he notes every fact and circumstance that can elucidate character, and having selected his subject, he works with passionate earnestness till he produces the individual or scene before the reader, exact in outline according to his preconceived notion, and with marvellous force and vividness of coloring." He is justly placed among the greatest literary characters. The hand of time shall never erase the writing which Thomas Carlyle has written upon the wall of the nineteenth century.

He died in London, England, February 5, 1881, at the advanced age of eighty-five years.

WILL CARLETON.

What Robert Burns did for the Scottish cotter and the Reverend William Barnes has done for the English farmer, Will Carleton has done for the American—touched with the glamour of poetry the simple and monotonous events of daily life, and shown that all circumstances of life, however trivial they may appear, possess those alternations of the comic and pathetic, the good and bad, the joyful and sorrowful, which go to make up the days and nights, the summers and winters, of this perplexing world. Like his prototypes, he infuses into his work the most eloquent and touching pathos, constantly relieved by irresistible touches of jocularity, and twines the mingled thread of mirth and sorrow with a dexterity that enthralls the reader. Poetry, publishers tell us, is little read nowadays. Fashion ordains the purchase of Edwin Arnold's or Browning's latest productions, but there are few modern poetical productions that show by their well-thumbed pages and shabby covers that they have moved the hearts by their pathos, or stirred them as the trumpet-like lines of Macaulay and Aytoun did a generation

perfect happiness but the sense of permanence. Mrs. Lowell was never very strong, and her ethereal beauty seemed too delicate for the climate of New England. Children were born to them, but all died in infancy excepting a daughter (now Mrs. Edward Burnett). Friends of the poet who were admitted to the study in the upper chamber remember the pairs of baby shoes that hung over a picture frame. From the shoes out through the west window to the resting-place of the dear little feet in Mount Auburn there was but a glance—a tender, mournful association, full of unavailing grief, but never expressed in words. Poems written in this period show the depth of parental feeling. Readers remember “The Changeling” and “She Came and Went:”

“As a twig trembles which a bird
Lights on to sing, then leaves unbent,
So is my memory thrilled and stirred:
I only know she came and went.”

Mr. and Mrs. Lowell went to Europe in the summer of 1851, and spent a year, visiting Switzerland, France, and England, but living for the most part in Italy. They returned in the autumn of 1852. Mrs. Lowell was slowly, almost imperceptibly, declining. The end came in October, 1853, when like a breath her soul was exhaled.

On the day of Mrs. Lowell's death a child was born to Mr. Longfellow, and his poem “The Two Angels”—perhaps as perfect a specimen of his genius as can be cited—will remain forever as a most touching expression of sympathy:

’Twas at thy door, O friend, and not at mine,
The angel with the amaranthine wreath,
Pausing, descended, and with voice divine
Whispered a word that had a sound like Death.

Then fell upon the house a sudden gloom,
A shadow on those features fair and thin,
And softly, from that hushed and darkened room,
Two angels issued, where but one went in.

Mrs. Lowell's poems were collected and privately printed in a memorial



HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW.



JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

son Hosea, in which the efforts to raise volunteers in Boston were held up to scorn :

Thrash away ! You'll hev to rattle
On them kittle-drums o' yourn ;
'Tain't a knowin' kind o' cattle
That is ketched with mouldy corn.

Society was puzzled. Critics turned the homely quatrains over with their claws as kittens do beetles, and doubted. Politicians thought them vulgar. For the first time in history the laugh was on the side of the reformers. The more cultivated of the abolitionists were in ecstasies. Some, however, did not quite understand the levity of tone. When Charles Sumner saw the first Biglow poem in the "Courier" he exclaimed to a friend : "This Yankee poet has the true spirit. He put the case admirably. I wish, however, he could have used good English."

The poems were finally gathered into a volume, which in comic completeness is without a parallel. The "work" begins with "Notices of the Press," which are delightful travesties of the perfunctory style both of "soft-soaping" and of "cutting up." There happening to be a vacant page, the space was filled off-hand by the first sketch of "Zekel's Courtship."

Zekel crep' up quite unbeknown,
An' peeked in thru the winder,
An' there sot Huld' all alone,
With no one nigh to hender.

This is the most genuine of our native idyls. Its appearance in the "Biglow Papers" was purely an accident ; but it had the air of being an extract, and it was so greatly admired, that the poet afterward added new stanzas to fill out the picture. In the original sketch there were six stanzas ; there are now twenty-four.

As the Yankee peculiarities of the "Biglow Papers" are evidently fresh studies, it might appear strange that they could be wrought out by a resident of Cambridge. For that city though rural is not in the least rustic. The primeval Yankee has become scarce everywhere ; he is hardly obtainable as a rare specimen ; he is a tradition ; he and his bucolic manners and speech are utterly gone. As soon expect the return of Jacob and Rachel as

EDGAR ALLEN POE.

EDGAR ALLEN POE was born in Boston, January 19, 1809, and after a tempestuous life of forty years, he died in the city of Baltimore, October 7, 1849.

His father, the son of a distinguished officer in the Revolutionary army, was educated for the law, but having married the beautiful English actress, Elizabeth Arnold, he abandoned law, and in company with his wife, led a wandering life on the stage. The two died within a short time of each other, leaving three children entirely destitute. Edgar, the second son, a bright, beautiful boy, was adopted by John Allen, a wealthy citizen of Richmond. Allen, having no children of his own, became very much attached to Edgar, and used his wealth freely in educating the boy. At the age of seven he was sent to school at Stoke Newington, near London, where he remained for six years. During the next three years he studied under private tutors, at the residence of the Allens in Richmond. In 1826 he entered the University of Virginia, where he remained less than a year.

After a year or two of fruitless life at home, a cadetship was obtained for him at West Point. He was soon tried by court-martial and expelled from school because he drank to excess and neglected his studies. Thus ended his school days.

In 1829 he published "Al Aaraaf, and Minor Poems." "This work," says his biographer, Mr. Stoddard, "was not a remarkable production for a young gentleman of twenty." Poe himself was ashamed of the volume.

After his stormy school life, he returned to Richmond, where he was kindly received by Mr. Allen. Poe's conduct was such that Mr. Allen was



Edgar A. Poe.



W. D. How

In 1856 he published a volume entitled "Leaves of Grass." This volume shows unquestionable power, and great originality, and contains passages of a very objectionable character, so much so, that no defense that is valid can be set up. His labors among the sick and wounded necessarily made great impressions; these took form in his mind and were published under the title of "Drum Taps."

His poems lack much of coming up to the standard of recognized poetic measure. He has a style peculiar to himself, and his writings are full of meaning, beauty and interest. Of his productions, Underwood says: "Pupils who are accustomed to associate the idea of poetry with regular classic measure in rhyme, or in ten-syllabled blank verse or elastic hexameters, will commence these short and simple prose sentences with surprise, and will wonder how any number of them can form a poem. But let them read aloud with a mind in sympathy with the picture as it is displayed, and they will find by nature's unmistakable responses, that the author is a poet, and possesses the poet's uncommunicable power to touch the heart."

N. P. WILLIS.

NATHANIEL PARKER WILLIS was born in Portland, Maine, January 20, 1806, and died at Idlewild, near Newburgh, New York, January 21, 1867.

His father was Nathaniel Willis, a noted journalist, who was born in Boston, in 1780, and who died there in 1870, at the advanced age of ninety. The father established and edited several different journals, and always with ability. In 1827 he established the "Youth's Companion," the first of the periodicals for the young, which he edited till in 1857.

Nathaniel P. Willis inherited all of his father's ability, which he increased many fold. He graduated at Yale College in 1827. His author-

few weeks of his arrival. He was buried at Hunter's Point, in Westchester County.

The young poet lived just long enough to capture the hearts of the people, and to write a few poems that have made his name immortal. The esteem in which he was held is beautifully expressed by Halleck:

"Green be the turf above thee,
Friend of my better days!
None knew thee but to love thee,
None named thee but to praise."

The "Croakers" were collected and included in an edition of Halleck's poems published in 1869. In 1835 his only daughter, Mrs. Janet Halleck DeKay, published Drake's poetry in one volume. This volume includes "The American Flag," a lively, patriotic, and beautiful poem, which alone would keep the author's name in the valued literature of his country. There is no more popular poem in the language. It will always stand by the side of "The Star Spangled Banner," by Francis S. Key; "Hail Columbia," by Joseph Hopkins; and will form a part of the popular current literature with Wordsworth's "Old Oaken Bucket," and J. H. Payne's "Home, Sweet Home."

JOHN DRYDEN.

JOHN DRYDEN was born at Aldwinkle, in Northamptonshire, August 9, 1631, and died May 1, 1700.

Dryden's family came from Cumberland stock, although for three generations his ancestors had lived in Northamptonshire, where they had acquired estates and a baronetcy. The family had inter-married with other landed families in that county. The poet's great-grandfather carried the name south, and acquired the estate of Canons Ashby, by marriage. He is said to have



John Francis Holbeck



GEORGE BANCROFT

The first volume of "Bancroft's History" appeared in 1834, and the tenth and last in 1873, covering, as will be seen, a period of thirty-nine years. Upon completion, it became very popular in this and foreign countries. It has been translated into various languages.

Bancroft has taken up his residence in Washington, and is engaged in revising his great work. It is said that the revision will be complete this year (1885), when the great historian will lay down his pen for the last time. He can afford to cease from his labors; for his life has been full of honors; and his pen has erected a monument to his ability that will endure through all time. His labors have brought him an ample fortune. He is a hearty lover of his country, and of the founders of her independence; and his country certainly reciprocates by cherishing the memory of the noble historian of her TRIALS, TRIUMPHS and GLORY.

WILLIAM BLACK.

WILLIAM BLACK, claimed by many to be the most popular living novelist, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in November, 1841. In early life, he was a close student, and was most attracted by the study of botany. He was early trained for a painter, which possibly aids him greatly in making the beautiful word-pictures we so often find in his writings. Black is a close observer of nature, and uses natural objects and phenomena to good advantage in his works.

On his book-shelves are found his favorite authors. They are Heine, Alfred de Musset, Thackeray, and George Sand. The particular works of the last two authors which he most admires are "Esmond" and "Consuelo." Marcus Aurelius must not be forgotten as one of his constant literary companions. At the same time, he is a miscellaneous reader. One can see

three years, the work reached the enormous sale of 125,000 copies. Mark Twain edited a daily paper at Buffalo, for a short time, but soon entered the lecture field again and revisited England in 1872. In the same year, he published "Roughing It," which reached a sale of 91,000 in nine months. At this time, London publishers gathered all his sketches, many of which were never published in America, and many of which were not written by Mark Twain, and issued them in four volumes. From the pen of this American genius and humorist have proceeded the "New Pilgrim's Progress," "Tramp Abroad," "Burlesque Autobiography," "Eye-openers," "Good Things," "Screamers," "A Gathering of Scraps," "The Gilded Age," "Tom Sawyer," "Life on the Mississippi," and "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." His works are published in the Old World at London and Leipsic, and are very popular on both sides of the Atlantic.

Without a doubt, he is the most popular of living humorists. His language is pure and elevated, except when it is necessary to use the language of classes to represent certain characters. The world is bound to laugh as long as Mark Twain lives, or as long as his works are kept in print.

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE.

COLERIDGE was born at Ottery, St. Mary, Devonshire, England, October 21, 1772 (given 1773 by some of his biographers), and on July 25, 1834, he passed away, and was buried in the vault of Highgate Church on August 2.

His father was a clergyman, and was known for his scholarship, simplicity of character, and interest in the pupils of the grammar school where he taught before devoting his full time to the ministry. The poet's mother was Anne Bowden, a woman noted for the interest which she took in the training of her children.



WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.



SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE.



Robert Southey

JOHN GODFREY SAXE.

J. G. SAXE was born in Highgate, Franklin County, Vermont, June 2, 1816. We have not learned that his youth was marked by any points of interest. With habits of industry and a desire for learning, he advanced steadily from the beginning to the end of his school work, "each day gaining and always retaining" valuable information.

In 1839 he completed a course of study in Middlebury College. In 1843 he was admitted to the bar at St. Albans. He practiced law in his native county till in March, 1850. During the next six years Saxe was editor and proprietor of the "Burlington Sentinel." In the year 1856 he was State's Attorney. Three years later, in 1859-'60, he was the candidate of his party for governor of Vermont. From the time of his admission to the bar he was actively engaged in literary work, although his first published book did not appear till in 1846.

Saxe's books include "Progress, a Satire," published in 1846; "New Rape of the Lock," 1847; "The Proud Miss McBride," 1848; "The Times," 1849; "The Money King, and other Poems," 1859; "Clever Stories of Many Nations," 1864; "The Masquerade and other Poems," 1866; "Fables and Legends in Rhyme," 1872; and "Leisure Day Rhymes," 1875. The collection of poems, "The Times," published in Boston in 1849, has passed through forty editions.

Saxe is one of our best humorous poets. In some respects he resembles Hood, "being remarkably quick in seeing the ludicrous side of things, and very felicitous in the use of puns and other oddities of speech."

At present he resides in Brooklyn, N. Y.

FRANCIS BRET HARTE.

BRET HARTE was born in Albany, New York, August 25, 1839, and at present, at the age of forty-five, he is enjoying the fruits of labor well rewarded, and a world-wide reputation.

When but seventeen years old, young Harte went to California and led a roving life for three years, sometimes among the miners digging for gold, sometimes teaching school, and finally acting as an "express messenger." In 1857 he worked as a compositor on the "Golden Era" in San Francisco. He contributed graphic and interesting sketches of California to this paper without making their authorship known to the editor. In a short time he was given a place on the editorial staff. Later he edited a weekly called "The Californian." For six years he was secretary of the United States branch mint in San Francisco. At the starting of the "Overland Monthly," in 1868, Harte became its editor, but resigned in 1871 and located in New York City.

His style is purely American. His poems are both grave and humorous, something after the style of J. R. Lowell, and his prose works give varied pictures of wild life in the West. Harte's excellent character sketches and original humor lifted him suddenly from obscurity to literary prominence, and carried his fame across the Atlantic. So popular did he become in England, that in 1871 and 1872 two London book-sellers republished his works and placed them on sale.

His most popular writings are "East and West," "That Heathen Chinee," "Truthful James," "Luck of Roaring Camp," and a prose work, "Condensed Novels," being a travesty of some popular works of fiction. Later, in 1876, appeared "Gabriel Conroy," his first complete novel, in the regular



BRET HARTE.



Geo. E. Laro.

the enemy of wrong, he took hold of his life work with a firm grasp, and has never faltered in the least. In his patriotic lyrics he has written with a terrible energy. "He seems," as Whipple says, "to have poured out his life blood with his lines." Since Longfellow's death Whittier is the most popular American poet. In true poetic genius he surpasses the lamented Longfellow. "No living poet can more safely rest his works and his memory to the keeping of that august power, Posterity, than John Greenleaf Whittier."

E. P. WHIPPLE.

EDWIN P. WHIPPLE was born in Gloucester, Massachusetts, March 8, 1819.

He was educated to business, first as a clerk in a bank at Salem, where he commenced work at the age of fifteen, then, three years later, at a bank in Boston, where he became chief clerk. He was also made superintendent of the reading room of the Merchants' Exchange at the time of its foundation, a position he held till in 1860.

Whipple's literary record commenced at the age of twenty-one, when he delivered a humorous poem before the Mercantile Library Association of Boston. In 1850 he delivered a fourth of July oration before the city authorities on "Washington and the Principles of the American Revolution." In 1848 he published two volumes of "Essays and Reviews," which at once established his reputation as a popular critic and essayist. The style was pleasing, and the judgment proved to be as good as that of any of the standard authorities. In the same year he published "Lectures on Subjects Connected with Literature and Life;" in 1860 he prefixed a life of Macaulay to an edition of his essays. In 1867 "Character and Characteristic Men" appeared; and

a play for a rival house. Finally, "Tyrannic Love, or the Royal Martyr," a tragedy, proved very popular. "All for Love," and "Antony and Cleopatra," are two excellent plays. Dryden declares that he put his whole energy into the play "All for Love," and wrote it for himself, not caring what the public might think of it. If Dryden had died before this date, we should not feel it our duty to rank him among the stars whose biographies fill this volume.

At last our author abandoned heroic couplets and attempted satire. Striking the new idea with his "majestic step and energy divine, he immediately took the lead." His first step was Mulgrave's "Essay on Satire," circulated in 1679, followed in the same year by Oldham's "Satire on the Jesuits." The immense success of these satires caused Dryden to take the field as a satirist in 1681. "Absalom and Achitophel" passed through nine editions in rapid succession. These satires secured his fame and made him supreme in English literature during the closing years of his life. He was also Poet Laureate.

GEORGE ELIOT.

MARY ANN EVANS was born at Griff House, England, near Nuneaton, November 22, 1820. Upon reaching womanhood, she married the eminent English author, George H. Lewes. By his suggestion, she commenced to write fiction. Her literary name was George Eliot, and by that name we shall know her in the world of letters. She died in London, December 22, 1880.

Her father, Mr. Robert Evans, was able to give his daughter an exceptionally good education. There were and are so many bad schools for girls that it was a piece of singular good fortune that Mrs. Wellington, at Nuneaton, and afterward Miss Franklin, at Coventry, undertook her educa-



GEORGE ELIOT.



ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

shown us the possibility of the highest forms of the poetic art being within the scope of woman's genius."

ROBERT BROWNING.

ROBERT BROWNING was born at Camberwell in Surrey, England, in 1812, and educated at the London University. He is also a Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford.

At the age of twenty-four, Browning attracted public attention by his poem of "Baracelsus." Considering the age of the author, it was a remarkable poem. In 1837 his tragedy of "Stafford" was brought on the stage. His next work was brought out in 1841. "Sordello" was a thin volume, but is esteemed the richest puzzle to all lovers of poetry which was ever given to the world.

His next works were in dramatic form, the most popular being "Pippa Passes." "Pippa is a girl from a silk factory, who passes the various persons of the play at certain critical moments, in the course of her holiday, and becomes, unconsciously to herself, a determining influence on the fortunes of each." Of his eight plays, the one given above, and "A Blot on the Scutcheon," "King Victor and King Charles," "Colombe's Birthday," "Luria," "The Return of the Druses," are the best.

He wrote the two dramatic sketches, "A Soul of Tragedy" and "In a Balcony." The plays and sketches mentioned are superior productions both in conception and execution.

In 1855 he added greatly to his reputation by publishing a volume of fifty poems, entitled "Men and Women." Another volume of character sketches entitled "Dramatis Personæ," appeared in 1864. The most extensive of all his works, "The Ring and the Book" was published in 1868. This poem is in four volumes of blank verse. It is an Italian story of the

turn, and taught both by precept and example the husbandry of the soul. The charge of selfishness so often brought against him can not be maintained. His nature responded to every influence of passing emotion. Like a delicate harp, it was silent if not touched, and yet gave its music to every wooing of the willful wind. The charge of unsympathetic coldness roused the deep indignation of those who knew him best. He learned by sad experience that the lesson of life is to renounce. Rather than cavil at his statuesque repose, we should learn to admire the self-conflict and self-command which moulded the exuberance of his impulsive nature into monumental symmetry and proportion. His autobiography has done him wrong. It is the story not of his life, but of his recollections. He needs no defense, nothing but sympathetic study. As Homer concentrated in himself the spirit of antiquity, Dante of the middle ages, and Shakespeare of the renaissance, so Goethe is the representative of the modern spirit, the prophet of mankind under new circumstances and new conditions, the appointed teacher of ages yet unborn.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH was born at Pallas, Longford County, Ireland, November 10, 1728, and he died April 4, 1774.

His father, the Rev. Charles Goldsmith, belonged to a Protestant and Saxon family, which had long been settled in Ireland. The father was very poor, and as his profession would not support him, he was obliged to rent and till a small farm which, added to his professional labors, furnished a living for his family. Later, however, the father received a living worth £200 per year, in the county of West Meath. The cottage in the wilderness was soon exchanged for a good dwelling-house on a public road, near the village of Lissoy. This better fortune enabled the father to educate his children.



OLIVER GOLDSMITH.



ROBERT BURNS.

some time passed as a member of the congregation, he began to preach. Bitter persecutions soon overtook him. After he had preached about five years, the Restoration occurred, and the dissenters were greatly oppressed. Bunyan was flung into Bedford jail in 1660, where he remained almost continuously for twelve years. On several occasions he could have purchased his liberty by promising to leave England, or quit preaching. "If you let me out to-day, I will preach again to-morrow," was his reply. His only books while in prison were the Bible and "Fox's Book of Martyrs." Bunyan spent much time in controversy, but gradually he came to understand in what direction lay his strength, and "Pilgrim's Progress" stole silently into the world. Probably this book has had a greater sale than any other book published excepting only the Bible. The second part of the book appeared in 1684, but the exact date of the first part we do not know. The "Holy War" soon followed. These two works are the best allegories ever placed in print. So popular did the author become with the lower and middle classes, that he was commonly called "Bishop Bunyan," and many Puritans are said to have begged with their dying breath that their coffins might be placed as near as possible to the coffin of the author of "Pilgrim's Progress."

ROBERT BURNS.

ROBERT BURNS was born in a cottage near Ayr, January 25, 1759, and on the 21st of July, 1796, he passed away.

His father, William Burns, was a small farmer, who had to work hard, but who used every means in his power to train up his children properly. Carlyle thus refers to the poet's father: "He was a man of thoughtful, intense character, as the best of our peasants are, valuing knowledge, possessing some, and open-minded for more, of keen insight and devout heart,

I see a brightening light, from far,
Steal down a path beyond the grave!
And now—bless God! its golden line
Comes o'er—and lights my shadowy way—
And shows the dear hand clasped in mine!
But list what those sweet voices say:
“The better land's in sight,
And, by its chastening light,
All love from life's midway is driven,
Save her whose clasped hand will bring thee on to heaven!”

WORDSWORTH.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH was born at Cockermouth, Cumberland County, England, April 7, 1770, and he died on April 23, 1850. He was buried by the side of his daughter in the beautiful churchyard of Grasmere.

His father was law agent to Sir James Lowther, afterward Earl of Lonsdale, but he died when William was in his seventh year.

The poet attended school first at Hawkshead School, then at Cambridge University. William was also entered at St. John's in 1787. Having finished his academical course, Wordsworth, in 1790, in company with Mr. Robert James, a fellow-student, made a tour on the continent. With this friend Wordsworth made a tour in North Wales the following year, after taking his degree in college. He was again in France toward the close of the year 1791, and remained in that country about a twelvemonth. He had hailed the French Revolution with feelings of enthusiastic admiration.

Bliss was it in that dawn to be *alive*
But to be *young* was very heaven.

A young friend, Raisley Calvert, dying in 1795, left him a sum of



DR SAMUEL JOHNSON.



Yours truly
Mark Twain
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We find him at the age of twenty in Edinburgh, attending lectures at the university, soliciting employment from the book-sellers, and not unknown to a circle of young men then resident in the Scottish metropolis, whose names have become historic. Among these were Walter Scott, Henry Brougham, James Jeffrey, Dr. Thomas Brown, John Leyden and James Grahame, the author of the "Sabbath." He also became acquainted with Dr. Robert Anderson, editor of a collection of British poets, a man of extreme enthusiasm and kindness of disposition, who early appreciated the remarkable powers of Campbell, and encouraged him to proceed in his literary career.

In 1799, his poem, "The Pleasures of Hope," was published. For more than three-fourths of a century, the poem has maintained, nay, increased, its popularity. Within that time, the public has adopted and abandoned many favorites—names once famous and in every mouth have gradually become forgotten and unregarded—poetical works of greater pretension, which were once considered as master-pieces of genius and inspiration, have fallen into neglect; but this poem by the boy Campbell remains a universal favorite. He disposed of the copyright of "Pleasures of Hope" for £60, but the publishers generously gave him £50 extra for each new edition of two thousand copies. Also in 1803 they permitted him to publish a quarto subscription copy, by which he realized £1,000.

Campbell went abroad, and passed some time on the continent, without any definite aim. His means were soon exhausted, and he was reduced to extreme poverty. Returning to Britain, his reputation soon gained him literary employment, but his tardiness in fulfilling engagements soon placed him in bad repute among the strong publishers, who hesitated often in offering him work. But he was constantly popular with the public, and an occasional poem from his pen found its way into print. In 1802 he wrote "Lochiel's Warning," and "Hohenlinden," two excellent poems known to everybody. A critic declares the latter one of the grandest battle pieces ever written. "In a few verses, flowing like a choral melody, the poet brings before us the silent midnight scene of engagement, wrapped in the snows of winter, the sudden arming for the battle, the press and shout of charging squadrons, the flashing of artillery, and the final scene of death. 'Lochiel's

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

HOLMES was born at Cambridge, Massachusetts, August 29, 1809, and is still young in spirits at the age of seventy-six.

At the age of twenty he graduated at Harvard University, then took up the study of law. This study, however, was soon abandoned for medicine. He studied in Europe for a short time, and took his degree as doctor of medicine, at Cambridge, in 1836. Two years later he was appointed to the chair of Anatomy and Physiology in Dartmouth College. This position he held till 1847, when he accepted a similar position at Harvard, where he still remains. All of his literary work has been performed in addition to the labors of a continuous professorship in college of about forty-seven years.

Holmes' literary tastes were early indicated by his comic and satiric verse contributed to "The Collegian." These were excellent of their kind. In his early works, the mirth so often outweighed the sentiment as to lessen the promise and the self-prediction of his being a poet indeed. While many of his youthful stanzas are serious and elegant, those which approach the feeling of true poetry are in celebration of companionship and good cheer. He seems to exemplify what Emerson was wont to preach, that there is honest wisdom in song and joy. He contributed numerous pieces to American periodicals, and in 1836 collected his poems into a volume. His life has not been marked by any noted events, but it has been like the steady movement of a great river. It has grown broader and deeper in each mile of its progress. "Holmes is a shining instance of one who has done solid work as a teacher and practitioner, in spite of his success in literature." "Poetry," a metrical essay, was followed by "Terpsichore," a poem; in 1846, "Urania;"



Oliver Wendell Holmes



WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

unusual interest in the culture of his children, and he was amply rewarded for all his pains. There is an unauthenticated tradition that the first Bryant of whom there is any account in America, came over in the Mayflower. Mr. Stephen Bryant came over from England, and was settled at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1836. Stephen's son Ichabod was the father of Philip Bryant, and Philip, of Peter, the father of William Cullen.

Bryant's mother was Miss Sarah Snell, of Mayflower stock, being a descendant of John Alden. Thus our poet has an honorable and cultured ancestry. Strict Puritanical discipline was the order of the day, hence the young poet's life did not fall in pleasant places, so far as recreations were concerned. While the children were held with a steady hand, their educational and moral interests were considered with conscientious earnestness.

For some time after his birth young Bryant was very frail, and the chances for living seemed decided against him. His head was of such enormous size as to cause his father much uneasiness. Dr. Bryant decided that the size of William's head must be reduced. He thought to accomplish the desired result by giving the babe a cold bath daily. Accordingly two of his students took the child each morning and plunged it, head and all, into a clear, cold spring that bubbled from the ground near the house. Whether the size of the head was reduced or not, we are unable to tell, but the world of popular literature has ample cause to rejoice over the massive size of Bryant's head and heart and mind. In 1810, at the age of sixteen, he entered Williams College, in Williamstown, Massachusetts, where he studied for two years. He soon distinguished himself for his attainments in language and polite literature. In 1812 he withdrew from college and entered upon the study of law. After three years of preparation he was admitted to the bar in 1815. He practiced first at Plainfield, and afterward at Great Barrington. Bryant attained high standing in the local and state courts, but his tastes inclined him rather to literature than the law.

Bryant's literary record commenced when he was only ten years of age, and even before that age he communicated lines to the local papers. "With a precocity rivaling that of Cowley or Chatterton, Bryant, at the age of thirteen, wrote a satirical poem on the Jeffersonian party, which he published

the age of fifty-four. In the same year he married Miss Frances Fairchild, and also published his first collection of verse. In 1821 Bryant wrote "The Ages," and delivered it before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Harvard College. At that time, our poet was recognized as a writer of great merit. From that time till he left his profession and took up his pen for a support, he wrote about thirty poems. We here name some of them: "The Indian Girl's Lament," "An Indian Story," "Monument Mountain," "The Massacre at Scio," "Song of the Stars," "March," "The Rivulet," "After a Tempest," "Hymn to the North Star," "A Forest Hymn," and "June." We pause here to quote Bryant's wish that he might die

"in flowery June
When brooks send up a cheerful tune,
And groves a joyous sound;"

and to remark that in that beautiful month he passed to his rest.

This brings our poet to 1825, when, through the efforts of Mr. Sedgwick and Mr. Verplanck, he was appointed assistant editor of the "New York Review" and "Athenaeum Magazine." Bidding adieu to courts and law books, he became a follower of Apollo. In 1825 Bryant removed to New York to enter upon his new duties. The "Review" did not prosper, and in one year it was merged into the "New York Literary Gazette." In a few months this magazine was consolidated with the "United States Literary Gazette," which in turn passed into the "United States Review." These publications were not profitable, although they contained the writings of such men as Bryant, Halleck, Willis, Dana, Bancroft, and Longfellow. Our poet next connected himself with the "Evening Post," and remained with that journal till his death. Between 1827 and 1830 he assisted in the editorial management of the "Talisman," a very successful annual, and also contributed the tales of "Medfield," and "The Skeleton's Cave" to a book entitled "Tales of the Glauber Spa." A complete edition of his poems was published in New York in 1832, and in England about the same time. The English edition was brought out through the influence of Washington Irving, who wrote a laudatory preface. John Wilson praised the work in an article in "Blackwood's Magazine." This volume established Bryant's reputation abroad, and made him almost as popular in England as in America.



NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE.

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to be a doctor and live by men's diseases, nor a minister to live by their sins, nor a lawyer and live by their quarrels. So I do not see that there is anything left for me but to be an author. How would you like some day to see a whole shelf full of books, written by your son, with 'Hawthorne's Works' printed on the backs?"

In 1821 he entered Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, where he graduated three years later. He distinguished himself in the classics, especially in Latin. His translations from the Roman poets were excellent, and he wrote several creditable English poems. In college he became acquainted with Henry W. Longfellow, and Franklin Pierce, afterward president of the United States. The college friendship formed by the three young friends, held them together for life. Longfellow was among the first to point out the beauty of Hawthorne's style, and Pierce gave him a public office.

Having graduated, he returned to Salem and withdrew entirely from society. The forenoons he set aside for studying, the afternoons for writing and the evenings for long walks along the rocky coast. So completely isolated was he that at times his meals were left by his locked door. In this early period he wrote extensively but destroyed most of his manuscript. In 1824 he published a melodramatic story entitled "Fanshawe." For want of merit it was speedily forgotten. His reputation was partially made by his writings in "The Token," a holiday annual published for fourteen years by S. G. Goodrich, or "Peter Parley." Nearly all of the greatest American writers contributed to "The Token," but Hawthorne seems to have been the only one who gained any reputation through its columns. In 1835 Henry F. Chorley, one of the editors of the "Athenæum," an English journal, reprinted from "The Token" one of our author's best sketches, and gave a very favorable recognition of his genius. About the same time Mr. Goodrich engaged him to edit an "American Magazine of Useful and Entertaining Knowledge," but paid him very poorly for his work. In 1837 his publishers brought out a collection of Hawthorne's writings under the title of "Twice-Told Tales." The book did not sell well although Henry W. Longfellow reviewed it in the "North American Review," declaring that it came from the hand of a man

logue, recalls the pregnant terseness of mediæval German before it was spoiled by the imitators of Ciceronian Latinity. "Werther," as soft and melodious as Plato, was the first revelation to the world of that marvelous style which, in the hands of a master, compels a language which is as rich as Greek to be also as musical."

He translated Goldsmith's "Deserted Village," and wrote numerous satires and small poems, while engaged upon his great works. His satires were chiefly aimed at the prevailing follies of the day. "Gods," "Heroes," and "Wieland," are the most important of these writings. At the same time, in 1773, he was actively engaged as an advocate. In 1774 "Memoires" or "Pleadings" were published, and the play of "Clavigo" arranged.

"Attracted to Weimar in the strength and beauty of his youth, Goethe rose upon the society like a star. From the moment of his arrival he became the inseparable and indispensable companion of the grand duke." Here he was finally ennobled by the emperor and he took for his arms a silver star set in an azure field. For the purpose of enriching his works he took long journeys to places laden with historic associations. He studied science and art and literature wherever he went, and the fruits of his researches appear in his writings. Finally, meeting Schiller, an eternal friendship sprang up between them that was mutually beneficial. Each exerted a great influence over the other. The first effect of Schiller's influence was the completion of "Wilhelm Meister's Lehrjahre," which ranks among Goethe's best writings.

Schiller and Goethe have been inseparable in the minds of their countrymen and have reigned as twin stars in the literary firmament. If Schiller does not hold the first place it is at least true that he is more beloved, although Goethe may be more admired. It would be invidious to separate them. But it is evident that the best fruits of Schiller's muse were produced when he was most closely under Goethe's influence, and the foreign student of German culture has ground for believing that at some future time the glory of the lesser luminary will be absorbed in that of the greater, and the name of Goethe will represent alone and unrivaled the literature of his age and country. In 1808 an edition of Goethe's works in thirteen volumes was published. "Faust" is considered the best of all his





Goethe



Goethe

works. A long list of ballads, lyrics, letters, dramas, stories and criticisms, came from his pen in almost endless variety and in masterly style and thought. For the last twelve years of his life he was the literary dictator of Germany and Europe. He took but little interest in the direction in which the younger German school was moving, and was driven to turn his eyes abroad. He conceived an intense admiration for Byron, which was increased by his early death. Byron appears as Euphorion in the second part of "Faust." He also recognized the greatness of Scott, and was one of the first to send a greeting to the Italian Mazzini. He conceived the idea of a world literature, transcending the narrow limits of race and country, which should unite all nations in harmony of feeling and aspiration. German writers claim that his design has been realized, and the literature of every age and country can be studied in a tongue which Goethe had made rich, flexible and serviceable for the purpose. The "Wanderjahre," although it contains some of Goethe's most beautiful conceptions, "The Flight into Egypt," "The Description of the Pedagogic Province," "The Parable of the Three Reverences," is yet an ill-assorted collection of all kinds of writings, old and new. Its author never succeeded in giving it form or coherency, and his later style, beautiful as it is, becomes in these years vague and abstract. Still, without this work, we should not be acquainted with the full richness and power of his mind.

Goethe differs from all other great writers, except perhaps Milton, in this respect, that his works cannot be understood without a knowledge of his life, and that his life is in itself a work of art, greater than any work which it created. This renders a long and circumstantial biography a necessity to all who would study the poet seriously. At the same time he is so great that we are even now scarcely sufficiently removed from him to be able to form a correct judgment of his place in literary history. He is not only the greatest poet of Germany, he is one of the greatest poets of all ages. Posterity must decide his exact precedence in that small and chosen company which contains the names of Homer, Dante and Shakespeare. He was the apostle of self-culture. Always striving after objective truth and sometimes attaining it, he exhibited to the world every phase of his plastic mind in

years. Three children had been born to them, but no lineal representatives of the great poet remain.

The autograph signature of the poet to a mortgage deed was sold in 1858 for the British Museum, in London, for the sum of three hundred guineas. The enormous sum paid for this single signature of the great Shakespeare shows the estimation placed upon mementoes of him, and illustrates, to a certain extent, the esteem in which his memory is held in England. The signature is so obscured that the spelling cannot be determined.

P. B. SHELLEY.

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY was born at Field Place, near Horsham, in Sussex, August 4, 1792; and his eventful life came suddenly to a sad termination. He had gone out in a boat to Leghorn to welcome Leigh Hunt to Italy, and while returning on the eighth of July, 1822, the boat sank in the Bay of Spezia, and all on board perished. When his body floated to shore a volume of Keats' poetry was found open in Shelley's coat pocket. The remains were reduced to ashes and deposited in the Protestant burial ground at Rome, near those of a child he had lost in that city.

His father was a member of the House of Commons. The family line could be traced back to one of the followers of William of Normandy. Thus in noble blood Shelley was more fortunate than most of his brother poets, considering the estimate that England placed upon the distinction of caste. He had all the advantages of wealth and rank, and hence much was expected of him.

At the age of ten Shelley was placed in the public school of Sion House, but the harsh treatment of instructors and school-fellows rendered his life most unpleasant. Such treatment might have been called out by his



John B. Colley



Byron

Byron's love disappointments were numerous; but in 1815 he married Miss Milbanke, a northern heiress, and daughter of Sir Ralph Milbanke. Ida, an only daughter, was born in the following December. Lady Byron left him in about one year, and refused to return. Their union seems to have been unfortunate, as they were not adapted to each other. His "Farewell to Lady Byron" was written in sincerity and bitterness of heart, and it is a poem of much tenderness. The thick gloom and the numerous misfortunes that settled upon Lord Byron, caused him to leave his native land forever, and quiet trouble in the pleasures and stirring scenes of the continent.

In many respects Byron's life is but a repetition of the life of Burns,—the one a lord, the other a peasant, but both singularly brilliant and yet unfortunate; loved and yet despised, and both dying from excesses in the very prime of life. It is difficult to write of such men; for their biographers usually paint their portraits by putting in all the shadows and leaving out most of the lights. This principle of biography we cannot adopt. We must consider Byron as one of the remarkable literary men of his day. His genius will be a source of wonder and delight to all who love to contemplate the workings of human passion in solitude and society, and the rich effects of taste and imagination.

When we see his uncontrolled passions lifted into great surging billows, like the wild unrest of the ocean, and then see him penning his farewell to his wife and child, while the tears are falling like rain upon the paper as he writes, we cannot find it in our heart to write unkindly of him. We simply repeat what Joaquin Miller said of

BURNS AND BYRON.

In men whom men condemn as ill
I find so much of goodness still,
In men whom men pronounce divine
I find so much of sin and blot,
I hesitate to draw a line
Between the two, where God has not.

He printed his translation of Homer in 1791, then engaged to edit an edition of Milton, but his mental condition prevented him from doing the work. In 1794 the crown gave him a pension of £300. His last poem was the "Cast-away."

His friend, Mrs. Unwin, died in 1796, and Cowper sank into a mental gloom which continued till his death in 1800.

Cowper was the most popular poet and letter writer of his age. "His muse does not sit apart in sublime seclusion—she comes down into the ways of men, mingles in their every day concerns, and is interested in crops and rural affairs. * * * He brought back nature to poetry, and his influence has been extensive and lasting. Shakespeare, Spenser and Milton are spirits of an ethereal kind. Cowper is a steady and valuable friend, whose society we may sometimes neglect for that of more splendid and attractive associates, but whose unwavering principle and purity of character, joined to rich intellectual powers, overflow upon us in secret, and bind us to him forever."

ALIGHIERI DANTE.

DANTE was born at Florence, Italy, in May, 1265; and banished from the sunny home of his nativity, he died September 14, 1321, in Ravenna, where his remains still repose.

Dante descended from an ancient and honorable family, though not one of the highest rank. Certain of his biographers attempt to prove his origin from one of the oldest senatorial families of Rome. It is given as authentic, however, that he was connected with the Elisei who took part in the building of Florence, under Charles the Great. Dante traces his ancestry back to the warrior Cacciaguida, but it would not be of special interest to trace the descent here, except to note that the poet's father was a second



L. S. S.



Jo: Milton

their descriptions. His sentences have become proverbs in popular quotations, as may be illustrated in a few short examples.

"Lost, yesterday, somewhere between sunrise and sunset, two golden hours, each set with sixty diamond minutes. No reward is offered, for they are gone forever.

"Habit is a cable; we weave a thread of it each day, and it becomes so strong we cannot break it.

"Affectation hides three times as many virtues as charity does sins.

"It is well to think well. It is divine to act well."

His works should form a part of every library, as well for the purity of their style as for their noble and practical thoughts.

JOHN MILTON.

JOHN MILTON, the greatest English poet since Shakespeare, was born in London December 9, 1608, and he died on Sunday, November 8, 1674.

His father, Mr. John Milton, removed to London about 1586, where he lived for some time as a teacher of music. Later he opened an office in Bread Street, where, as scrivener, he drew up wills, marriage settlements and like legal documents, and received money from his clients for investment. He was known as a man of ingenious tastes, and he gained considerable reputation in London for his contributions to important musical publications. The father prospered so well in his work that he was enabled to give his children the advantages of the best school training.

Music was made a part of the education of the poet from his infancy. But three of six children survived—our poet, an elder sister, Anne, and Christopher, the youngest of the family. John Milton's domestic tutor was Thomas Young, afterward noted among the English Puritan clergy. At the

Poe immortal. The teachers of Baltimore placed a monument over his grave in 1875.

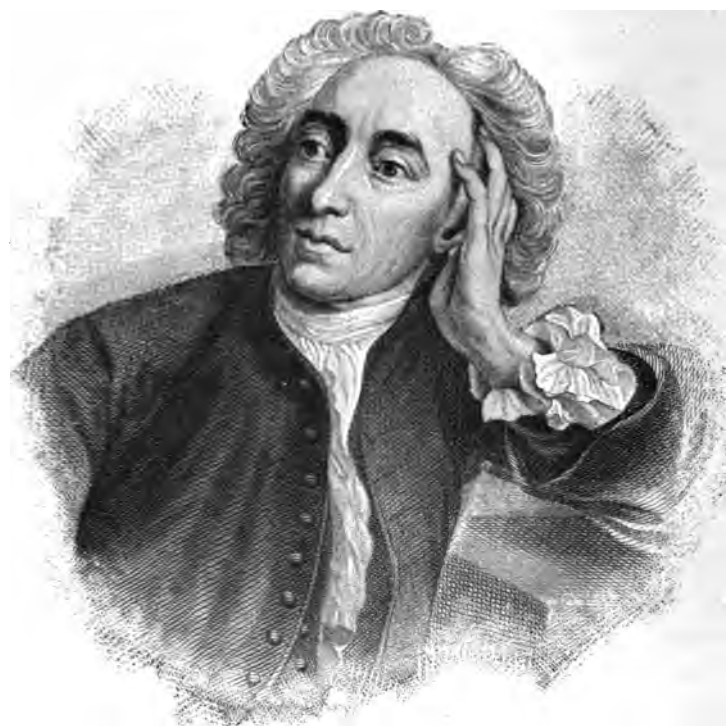
Poe has been severely censured by many writers for his wild and stormy life, but we notice that Ingram and some other prominent authors claim that he has been willfully slandered, and that many of the charges brought against him are not true. His ungovernable temper and high spirit led him into disputes with his friends, hence he was not enabled to hold any one position for a great length of time. Like Byron and Burns, he had faults in personal life, but his ungovernable passions are sleeping, while the sad strains of "The Raven," the clear and harmonious tones of "The Bells," and the powerful images of his fancy live in the immortal literature of his time.

ALEXANDER POPE.

ALEXANDER POPE was born in London, May 21, 1688, and he died at Twickenham, May 30, 1744.

Pope claimed to be of gentle blood, and that his father was of a gentleman's family in Oxford, "the head of which was the Earl of Downe. The poet's mother was the daughter of William Turner, Esq., of York. In 1677 Pope's father carried on business in London, as a linen merchant. Having acquired a competency in addition to the property gained by his marriage with Edith Turner, he retired from business about 1688 to a small estate at Binfield, near Windsor.

Alexander's education was commenced by the family priest. After the boy had made some proficiency under his private tutor, he was sent to Catholic seminary at Twyford, near Winchester. In this school young Pope lampooned his teacher, was severely whipped, and finally removed to a small school near London. He returned home in about his thirteenth year. Here



A. Pope



believe me yours
Wm Cooper.

WILLIAM COWPER.

WILLIAM COWPER was born November 26, 1731, at Great Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, England, and after being reduced to the last stage of feebleness, he died peacefully, April 25, 1800.

His father, the Rev. Dr. Cowper, belonged to the aristocracy, and his mother was allied to some of the noblest families of England. He counted among his ancestors kings and earls, and persons who had filled the most prominent places in the English government. His mother died when he was only in his sixth year.

Cowper's health was very delicate, hence his school life was not altogether pleasant. He was sent to Dr. Pitman's school in Market street, Bedfordshire, as soon as he was six years old. There he was subjected to the ridicule of his rude companions. Cowper thus wrote of one of his school-mates—"His savage treatment of me impressed such a dread of his figure on my mind, that I well remember being afraid to lift my eyes upon him higher than his knees, and that I knew him better by his shoe-buckle than by any other part of his dress." Without doubt, the mental anguish which he suffered in school had a decided influence upon the rest of his life, which lay under the clouds of despondency. At the age of ten he was sent to the Westminster school. There Churchill, Lloyd and Warren Hastings were his fellow students. There, also, he served a seven years' apprenticeship to the classics. Being surrounded by strangers, and naturally very shy, his fits of despondency grew darker, and his mind became greatly depressed. Inflammation of the eyes threatened to make him blind, and he soon showed signs of consumptive tendency. In this condition, at the age of thirteen, he had

had watched with an anxiety almost bordering on fanaticism, the progress of the patriotic movement, and the news of the capture of Warsaw by the Russians, affected him as if it had been the deepest of personal calamities. He was the founder of the association in London of the Friends of Poland, which not only served to maintain the strong interest felt by the British people for the Polish cause, but was the means of providing assistance and giving employment to large numbers of the unfortunate exiles who were driven to seek refuge in England. Never, till his dying day, did he relax his efforts in their behalf; and many an unhappy wanderer, who, but for unexpected aid, might have perished in the streets of a foreign city, had reason to bless the name of Thomas Campbell.

Critics may dispute regarding the comparative merits of his longer works; and, as they incline toward didactic or narrative poetry, may prefer the one composition to the other. Both are entitled to praise and honor, but it is on his lyrics that the future reputation of Campbell must principally rest. They have taken their place, never to be disturbed, in the popular heart; and, until the language in which they are composed perishes, they are certain to endure.

GEOFFREY CHAUCER.

CHAUCER was born about 1340, and he died in 1400. There is some controversy about the exact date of his birth.

Chaucer is known as "The Father of English Poetry." The annals also show that he was more conspicuously connected with public affairs than any noted poet since his time.

In 1357 he was page to Elizabeth. In 1359 he was with the royal army in the invasion of France, where he was taken prisoner, but was released in 1360, by the king giving £16 towards his ransom.



Geoffrey Chaucer



J. Watts.

himself and of the noble family of Castlewood, of which he is a member. It is a grand and melancholy story.

In 1852 he published in monthly parts, "The Newcomes: Memoirs of a Most Respectable Family. Edited by Arthur Pendennis, Esq." This work is considered his masterpiece. The leading theme or moral of the story is the misery occasioned by ill-assorted marriages.

In 1855-'56 he again entered the lecture field. Crossing the Atlantic he made a tour of the United States. He had prepared four new lectures upon "The Four Georges," which he delivered here to large audiences. Returning to his home, he repeated his lectures in England and Scotland. In 1857 appeared "The Virginians," a tale of the time of George II. In 1860-'62 Thackeray conducted the "Cornhill Magazine," and in the pages of this popular miscellany appeared his "Roundabout Papers"—a series of light, graceful essays and sketches; also two novels, "Lovel, the Widower," and "Philip on His Way Through the World," which were scarcely worthy of his reputation. He had commenced another story, "Dennis Duval," of which four monthly portions were published; and he contemplated Memoirs of the reign of Queen Anne, as a continuation of Macaulay's History. All of his schemes, however, were frustrated by his sudden and lamentable death. His health had long been precarious, and on the day preceding his death he had been in great suffering. Still he moved about; "he was out several times," says Shirley Brooks, "and was seen in Palace Gardens, Kensington, reading a book. Before the dawn on Thursday, December 24, 1863, he was where there is no night." "Never more," said the "Times," "shall the fine head of Mr. Thackeray, with its mass of silvery hair, be seen towering among us." He had died in bed alone and unseen, struggling, as it appeared, with a violent spasmodic attack, which had caused the effusion on the brain, of which he died.

Thackeray and Dickens are two important characters in social history. The former possessing the greater culture, and dealing with the follies of the higher classes, did much for English society, while the latter, with greater genius, accomplished the same results by holding up to ridicule the vices of the poor.

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

HARRIET ELIZABETH BEECHER STOWE was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, June 15, 1812. Her father was Dr. Lyman Beecher, a distinguished clergyman. In 1833, with her father, she removed to Cincinnati, where, in 1836, she was married to the Rev. Calvin Stowe, who afterward became professor at Bowdoin College and at Andover Theological School.

Several stories which she had written for the Cincinnati "Gazette" and other periodicals, were collected and published in a volume entitled "The Mayflower." In 1851 she commenced "Uncle Tom's Cabin," in the Washington "National Era." The story was afterward published in Boston in two volumes. "Its success was without a parallel in the literature of any age. Nearly half a million copies were sold in this country, and a considerably larger number in England. It was translated into every language of Europe, and into Arabic and Armenian. It was dramatized and acted in nearly every theatre in the world." In 1853 she visited Europe and was received with gratifying attention. "Sunny Memories of Foreign Lands" was published upon her return from Europe. In 1856 appeared "Dred, a Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp." This work produced but slight impression. The success of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" probably removed the charm of novelty in the subject of her new story. "The Minister's Wooing" appeared in book form in 1859. "Agnes of Sorrento" and "The Pearl of Orr's Island" were published in 1862; "House and Home Papers," in 1864; "The Chimney Corner," in 1865; "Little Foxes," 1865; "Queer Little People," 1867; "Oldtown Folks," 1869; "Pink and White Tyranny," 1871; "My Wife and I," 1872. Probably the great mistake in her literary work was made in pub-



HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.







PHOEBE AND ALICE CARY.

ALICE AND PHOEBE CARY.

ALICE was born in the Miami Valley, eight miles north of Cincinnati, Ohio, April 26, 1820, and she died in New York, February 12, 1871.

PHOEBE was born near Cincinnati, September 4, 1824, and her life work closed by her death at Newport, R. I., July 31, 1871.

Their parents were people of considerable culture. The education of Alice and Phoebe was limited to the meager opportunities of a newly settled country. Alice commenced writing verses at the age of eighteen years. For ten years she contributed prose and verse to newspapers. Her sketches of rural life, first published in the "National Era," under the signature of "Patty Lee," attracted considerable attention. In 1849 the "Poems of Alice and Phoebe Cary" appeared in book form in Philadelphia.

In 1850 the sisters removed to New York and devoted themselves entirely and successfully to literary work. Alice became a constant contributor to leading literary periodicals. She also continued to write poems and novels, which appeared in book form. Her published volumes, besides the one mentioned above, are "Clovernook Papers," in two series, published in 1851 and 1853; "Clovernook Children," 1854; "Hagar, a Story of To-Day," 1852; "Lyra, and Other Poems," 1853; enlarged editions, including "The Maiden Flascala," 1855; "Married, not Mated," 1856; "Pictures of Country," 1859; "Lyrics and Hymns," 1866; "The Bishop's Sons," 1867; "The Lover's Diary," 1867; and "Snow Berries, a Book for Young Folks," 1869.

Phoebe's poems were more independent in style and more buoyant in tone than those of her sister. One of her first poems, printed in 1842, attracted much attention. Her works, besides her contributions to her sister's volumes, are "Poems and Parodies," 1854; "Poems of Hope, Faith

"Nature and Man Thinking," delivered before the Phi Beta Kappa Society at Cambridge. In 1838 appeared his "Address to the Senior Class in Divinity College, Cambridge," also "Literary Ethics," an oration. In 1841 he brought out "The Method of Nature," "Man the Reformer," the first series of his "Essays," and several lectures; 1844, "Young America," and the second series of "Essays."

For four years, from 1840 to 1844, Mr. Emerson was associated with Margaret Fuller, Countess d'Ossoli, in conducting a literary journal, entitled "The Dial;" and on the death of the Countess, he joined with Mr. W. H. Canning in writing a memoir of that learned and remarkable woman, which was published in 1852. In 1846 he brought out a volume of poetry. In 1848 he revisited England and delivered a course of lectures in Exeter Hall, London. "The logicians have an incessant triumph over him," said Harriet Martineau, "but their triumph is of no avail; he conquers minds as well as hearts." In the succeeding year he delivered another course of lectures upon "Representative Men." These lectures are considered among the greatest of his works. In 1856 appeared "English Traits;" 1860, "The Conduct of Life;" 1865, an "Oration on the Death of President Lincoln;" 1870, "Society and Solitude," twelve essays; 1875, "Parnassus," "Selected Poems," and a volume of "Essays." In 1866 Harvard College conferred upon Mr. Emerson the degree of LL. D.

For profound and original thought he has but few equals and perhaps no superiors. He is known as the American Carlyle. No man has made a greater or more lasting impression upon the literature of the age than has the great American essayist and poet.

It is impossible not to be refreshed and gratified by Emerson's prose; but perhaps his poetry more completely carries the reader with it, as being a higher and purer production of genius. The best passages of it are indeed as unmitigated poetry as ever was written; they are poetry down to the last syllable; they are verses which, as he himself expresses it, seem to be found not made. Their meaning is as intimately connected with their form as sound is with speech. The mystic obscurity of some of the poems, however, and the unfamiliar subjects treated, have discouraged or repelled many from the



RALPH WALDO EMERSON.



JOSIAH GILBERT HOLLAND.

Too late now for the old Ephesian vows,
And not divine the crescent on thy brows,
Yet call thee nothing but the mere mild moon,
 Behind those chestnut boughs;
Casting their dappled shadows at my feet;
I will be grateful for that simple boon,
In many a thoughtful verse and anthem sweet,
And bless thy dainty face whene'er we meet.

Hood's works have been collected into four volumes: "Poems of Wit and Humor;" "Hood's Own, or Laughter from Year to Year;" "Whims and Oddities in Prose and Verse."

JOSIAH GILBERT HOLLAND.

DR. HOLLAND was born in 1819, and died in New York, October 12, 1881.

His family was of the oldest Puritan stock; the original ancestors, John and Judith Holland, appear to have been members of that church which was organized before sailing from Plymouth, in England, and which emigrated, bodily and ecclesiastically, into the wilderness at Dorchester.

During a considerable part of his childhood the family, pursued by misfortune, led a sort of roving life. For some years they lived in Heath; then they returned to Belchertown; then we find them migrating to South Hadley, to Granby, and elsewhere, as the unprosperous father was able to find work. The promising son, Josiah, had little chance for learning, getting but a few months in the public schools in winter.

While the family lived at Northampton Josiah entered the Northampton High School, where he pursued his studies with great eagerness and ability. The older inhabitants of a certain little mountain village in Vermont will tell you to-day of a tall young man who, more than forty-five years



but he has given us some of the best thoughts. Many of his sayings must stand among the finest specimens of American wit and humor; and his writings, as a whole, will always be classed among the best of their kind. In his prose works we are constantly delighted by the frequent occurrence of the most brilliant and original thoughts. He will always stand in the temple of American literature, among the most brilliant and popular writers.

THOMAS HOOD.

THOMAS HOOD was born on May 23, 1789, and died May 3, 1845.

His father was a man of considerable ability, having written two successful novels. He was also a bookseller, of the firm of Vernor & Hood.

The teacher of Thomas Hood was a person who appreciated the boy's ability, and made him feel it impossible not to take an interest in his studies. This is considered one of the most fortunate incidents of his boyhood. Under the guidance of his teacher, Hood earned a few shillings by revising for the press a new edition of "Paul and Virginia." He was educated for the counting-house, and was given employment by a friend of the family, but he soon found that the work was not suited to his tastes. By close confinement in the room and at a distasteful occupation, his health, never vigorous, soon gave way, which led to his retirement from the merchant's desk. He was sent to reside with relatives at Dundee. "He has graphically described his unconditional rejection by this inhospitable personage, and the circumstances under which he found himself in a strange town without an acquaintance, with the most sympathetic nature, anxious for intellectual and moral culture, but without guidance, instruction or control. This self-dependence, however, suited the originality of his character; he became a large and indiscriminate reader, and before long contributed humorous and



Yours very truly
Wm Lloyd Garrison



Jan. 11 1832

V^r L.

J. Moore

THOMAS MOORE.

THOMAS MOORE was born at Dublin, Ireland, May 28, 1779, and his brilliant career was brought to a close by his death, February 26, 1852.

His father was a Dublin grocer of respectability. We have no account of Moore's early life except that given by himself. He was born in the prescribed sect of Catholics, whose exclusion from the society of the castle produced a closer union among their varied ranks, and thus, from the first, Moore was no stranger to the more refined gayeties of social intercourse. It was, upon the whole, a gay life in Catholic society, though the conspiracy of the United Irishmen was being quietly formed beneath the surface. Amateur theatricals was one of their favorite diversions, and gifts of reciting and singing were not likely to die for want of applause. Moore's school-master was a leader in these entertainments, a writer of prologues and epilogues and incidental songs, and at a very early age Master Thomas Moore was one of his show boys, ardently encouraged in all his exercises by a very affectionate mother at home. Before he left school he had acquired fame in his own circle as a song writer, and had published in the "*Anthologia Hibernica*," verses "To Zelia, on her charging the author with writing too much on love." This was in 1793. In that year the prohibition against Catholics entering Trinity College was removed, and the next year Moore took advantage of the new freedom. As one of the first Catholic entrants, he had an exceptional stimulus to work, and there industriously acquired a classical scholarship.

He crossed St. George's Channel in 1799, to study law in the Middle Temple, carrying with him a translation of the "*Odes of Anacreon*," which he wished to publish by subscription. In a very short time he had enrolled half the fashionable world among his subscribers, and had obtained the permis-

relieved from this office, he was chosen to represent Massachusetts in the United States Senate. He entered upon the duties of this new position with his usual zeal and intelligence, but before the close of his term of office, he was obliged to resign on account of his poor health.

Everett's literary record may be given in connection with his public lectures. He was perhaps the most finished orator on this continent. The ten years of his life after he had retired from public office most widely established his reputation and extended his influence throughout America. He was frequently invited to deliver an oration on one or another public topic of historical or other interest. With him, these orations, instead of being the ephemeral entertainments of an hour, became careful studies of some important theme, so that the collected editions of them is now one of the standard books of reference in an American's library. Eager to avert, if possible, the impending conflict of arms, Everett prepared an oration on Washington, which he delivered in every part of America. The eagerness to hear him was so great that, from the first, his hosts arranged, almost always, that tickets should be sold to all auditors; and as he traveled wholly at his own expense, the audiences thus contributed more than one hundred thousand dollars for the purchase of the old home of Washington at Mount Vernon, and the securing it as a shrine for American patriotism.

He also prepared the article on Washington for the "Encyclopædia Britannica," which was printed in book form in 1860. In 1858 he entered into a contract with Robert Bonner, editor of the "New York Ledger," to write one article a week for one year, in consideration of \$10,000 to be paid into the Mount Vernon fund. These articles were republished as the "Mount Vernon Papers" in 1861. In 1857 he delivered an address upon charities and charitable associations. The address was first given in Boston, then repeated in different places fifteen times, thus raising \$13,500 for charitable purposes. In 1859 his address in Boston upon the "Early Days of Franklin" yielded about \$4,000 for charitable purposes. In 1858 he pronounced the eulogy on Thomas Dowse, before the Dowse institute, at Cambridge, Massachusetts. At the consecration of the National Cemetery, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, November 19, 1863, he delivered the address. When Savannah



EDWARD EVERETT.



JAMES BAYARD TAYLOR.

on January 9, 1860. His early death was caused by derangement of the action of the heart.

The ancestors of Lord Macaulay were long settled in the island of Lewis, Ross-shire. Zachary Macaulay (1768-1838), son of the Scottish minister, was sent when a boy to the West Indies. He was disgusted with the state of slavery in Jamaica, and afterward on his return to Great Britain, resided at Clapham, and became an active associate of Clarkson and Wilberforce. He married Selina, daughter of Mr. Thomas Mills, a bookseller in Bristol, and had, with other children, a son destined to take a high place among the statesmen, orators, essayists, and historians of England.

Before he was eight years of age the boy had written a "Compendium of Universal History," which gave a tolerably connected view of the leading events from the creation to 1800, and a romance in the style of Scott, in three cantos, called the "Battle of Cheviot." At a little later time the child composed a long poem on the history of Olans Magnus, and a vast pile of blank verse entitled "Fingal, a Poem in Twelve Books." At the age of twelve he was placed under the care of the Rev. Mr. Preston, first at Shelford, afterward near Buntingford, in the neighborhood of Cambridge. In his nineteenth year he was entered at Trinity College, Cambridge; he gained two prizes for English verse, one in 1819, on "Pompeii," and one two years after on "Evening." He gained the Craven scholarship in 1821, took his degree of B. A. in 1822, became Fellow of his college in 1824, and took his degree of M. A. in 1825. He had distinguished himself by contributions to "Knight's Quarterly Magazine" in 1823 and 1824; and in August, 1825, appeared his celebrated article on Milton in the "Edinburgh Review." Having studied at Lincoln's Inn, Mr. Macaulay was called to the bar in 1826, and joined the Northern Circuit.

Three years afterward a distinguished Whig nobleman, the Marquis of Lansdowne, procured his return to parliament for the borough of Calne, and he rendered effective service in the Reform debates of 1831 and 1832. In 1832 he was appointed Secretary to the Board of Control, and the same year the citizens of Leeds returned him as their representative to the House of Commons. In 1834 he proceeded to India as legal advisor to the Supreme

experiences. Then what he says is presented in a manner so natural and so graceful that the reader is captivated by the manner as much as by the matter of his writings. Another attractive feature in Mitchell's books is the purity of sentiment—the absence of everything low, mean, or morally unhealthy. His humor is not boisterous, but is mellowed into a rich and delicate hue that makes all his works lively and interesting and instructive. If the reader cannot obtain all of Mitchell's works, he should at least get "The Reveries of a Bachelor" and "Dream-Life" and read them. If he loves beauty and grace and naturalness of style he must be charmed even to a second and a third reading of these works. Mitchell deserves to rank as one of the most delightful writers of the national period of our literature.

JOAQUIN MILLER.

JOAQUIN MILLER, whose real name is Cincinnatus Hiner Miller, was born in Indiana, November 10, 1841.

Mr. Miller is an excellent example of a self-made man. His writings fell into poetic measure even before he became acquainted with the laws of versification or the rules of grammar. Without the refinement of classic culture he has yet gained an enviable reputation both in the New and Old World.

When he was about eleven years old his father emigrated to Oregon. Three years later the boy went to California to seek his fortune. His verses at this time attracted some attention although they betrayed an utter lack of school training. He wandered about for some time, then returned home in 1860 and commenced the study of law at Eugene, Oregon. In the succeeding year he became express messenger in the gold-mining district of Idaho. This position he soon relinquished to take charge of the "Demo-



DONALD G. MITCHELL.



LORD LYTTON.

by her gifted son. In dedicating his works to her, he said—"From your graceful and accomplished taste I early learned that affection for literature which has exercised so large an influence over the pursuits of my life; and you who were my first guide, were my earliest critic."

Edward was not sent to the public schools, but he received a thorough education from his mother and private teachers whom she employed. In later life he was honored by various schools. Oxford conferred upon him the degree of D. C. L. in 1853.

His literary work began when he was only thirteen, and at fifteen he published a volume of poems entitled "Ismael, an Oriental Tale, with Other Poems." In 1825, at Cambridge, he won the chancellor's medal with a poem on "Sculpture." At the time he wrote the prize poem he was a fellow-commoner of Trinity Hall. He spent the long vacations in wandering over England, Scotland and France. His literary record extends over more than half a century, and during that time he was most active. As Scott said of Byron, there was "no reposing under the shade of his laurels—no living upon the resources of past reputation—his foot was always in the arena, his shield hung always in the list." In 1826 he printed "Weeds and Wild Flowers," a collection for private circulation; and in 1827 appeared "O'Neil, or a Rebel," a romance in heroic couplets, of the patriotic struggle in Ireland. "The Siamese Twins," printed in 1831, and his juvenile poems, he afterward ignored.

In addition to what has already been given, the following is an outline of his work: "Falkland," his first romance, appeared anonymously in 1827; "Pelham," 1828, a brilliant novel full of witty paragraphs; "The Disowned," 1828, a novel that did not attain great popularity; "Devereux," 1829; "Paul Clifford," 1830; "Eugene Aram," and "Godolphin," 1833; "The Pilgrims of the Rhine," and "The Last Days of Pompeii," 1834; "Rienzi," 1835; "Athens, Its Rise and Fall," 1836; "Ernest Maltravers," 1837; "Leila," "Calderon," and "Alice, or The Mysteries," being a sequel to "Ernest Maltravers," 1838.

In addition to his literary work, Bulwer became editor of "The New Monthly," as successor to Campbell, in 1833. "The Monthly Chronicle" he

Referring to Tennyson's early days, William Howitt has written: "You may hear his voice, but where is the man? He is wandering in some dreamland, beneath the shade of old and charmed forests, by far-off shores, where

'all night
The plunging seas draw backward from the land
Their moon-led waters white;'

by the old mill-dam, thinking of the merry miller and his pretty daughter; or wandering over the woodlands where

'Norland whirlwinds blow.'

"From all these places—from the silent corridor of an ancient convent, from some shrine where a devoted knight recites his vows, from the dreary monotony of 'the moated grange,' or the forest beneath the 'talking oak'—comes the voice of Tennyson, rich, dreamy, passionate, yet not impatient, musical with the airs of chivalrous ages, yet mingling in his song the theme and spirit of those that are yet to come."

His fame was established in 1830, when he published "Poems, Chiefly Lyrical, by Alfred Tennyson." From that date to this—a period of fifty-five years—he has been a distinguished character in English letters. In 1833 he issued another volume, giving unusual signs of poetic power. This volume was handled severely by critics, which was the cause, perhaps, of the delay of nearly nine years before his next volume appeared. The young poet received the criticism in a true scholarly spirit, and set about correcting his faults. The two volumes which he brought out in 1842 raised him to the position of absolute superiority. These volumes, entitled "Poems," contained many of his first poems completely revised and many new ones. The following appeared in the list: "Morte d'Arthur," "Godiva," "The May Queen," "Dora," "Talking Oak" and "Locksley Hall." These poems are among the best in the language, and they alone would render the author's name immortal. "Locksley Hall" is Tennyson's most finished work.

From the date of the above works Tennyson has stood at the head of English poetry. In 1847 appeared "The Princess, a Medley;" 1850, "In



JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.



ALFRED TENNYSON.

wick," and "Mary Garvin." His fame is secured even by his shorter poems. Everybody knows "Randolph of Roanoke," "Maud Muller," "Skipper Ireson's Ride," "Telling the Bees," "Barbara Fritchie," "My Psalm," "The Barefoot Boy," and "My Playmate." "The Hermit of Thebaid" is nearly faultless.

"Mr. Whittier is one of the few American poets who have succeeded in obtaining the suffrages of the reading public and of the literary class. Men of letters respect his work for its sincerity, simplicity, and downright manliness, and average readers of poetry respect it because they can understand it. There is not a grown man or woman in the land who does not readily enter into the aspiration and discontent of "Maud Muller," and into the glowing patriotism of "Barbara Fritchie." Whether the incident which is the inspiration of the latter ever occurred, is more than doubtful; nevertheless, the poem is one that the world will not willingly let die. The reputation of such poems is immediate and permanent, and beyond criticism, favorable or otherwise; the touch of nature in them is beyond all art. I should never think of comparing 'Barbara Fritchie' with Bryant's 'O Mother of a Mighty Race,' but I am sure that it has a thousand readers where Bryant's poem has one. Bryant seldom reached the hearts of his countrymen, but his best poems appealed to what was loftiest in their intellects."

Before closing this sketch, we will make brief reference to the poet as he is at present considered aside from his literary work. At seventy-seven years and over one can be said to have the beauty only of age, striking as that is in Mr. Whittier's case, with the dark eye and full beard, where black lines still appear among the silver, while his form is as straight, and his step is as firm and elastic as ever. But the poet's youthful beauty is reported to have been extraordinary; very tall, erect, and well knit, with fine features, dark skin, and flashing, deep-set eye, he could not have looked the Quaker to any extent; and in fact we think he is more of a Quaker in affection than anything else. He has himself recognized that

"Over restless wings of song
His birthright garb hung loose,"

and even though he clings to the form of the sect in many respects, using the

SIR WALTER SCOTT

SIR WALTER SCOTT was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, August 5, 1771, and he breathed his last on September 21, 1832.

His father, a writer to the "Signet," encouraged literature. His mother, Anna Rutherford, daughter of the professor of medicine in the Edinburgh University, was a lady of fine culture, also well related. The excellent ancient Scottish kinsmen of both his parents centered in our poet. To those who understand the impulses of a Scotchman, it is easy to understand the pleasure that Scott felt at his ability to trace his ancestral line back to the best ancient families of his beloved Scotia.

Apparently the most important part of his education came incidentally from his physical condition, by the following circumstances: Delicate health, arising chiefly from lameness, led to his being placed under the charge of some relations in the country; and when a mere child, yet old enough to receive impressions from country life and border stories, he resided with his grandfather at Sandy-Knowe, a romantic situation a few miles from Kelso and there at the age of thirteen he first read Percy's *Reliques*. This work had great effect in making him a poet. He passed through the high school of his native town, and the Edinburgh University. In these schools he acquired a good knowledge of Latin, and became proficient in ethics, moral philosophy, and history, but his aversion to Greek prevented him from acquiring the rich treasures of that classic mine. For the purposes of general literature, he acquired a sufficient knowledge of the German, French, Italian and Spanish languages. His great appetite for books led him to store his mind with a vast variety of general knowledge. The greater part of this information he acquired during the sickness of his youth. He was particu







WALTER SCOTT.



Samuel

larly fond of romances, and he became familiar with the ballads of his country, and the stories of border life. He also formed the habit of inventing stories and telling them to the great pleasure of his audience. His gentle and pleasing manners made him a welcome guest wherever he went. Even in early life he had acquired some skill in writing verse. Some of his productions in this line were secured by Dr. Adams of the high school which our youthful poet was attending, and wrapped in a cover inscribed "Walter Scott, July, 1783."

Having completed his literary training in school, he was apprenticed to his father as a writer, but he afterward studied law and was admitted to the bar in his twenty-first year. By this time his health was completely restored and he was vigorous and robust. Numerous "raids," as Scott called them, were made into the country, in which valuable knowledge of rural life, character, traditions and anecdotes was acquired. Scott joined the Tory party, and when the dread of an invasion agitated the country he became one of a band of volunteers, "brothers true," in which he held the rank of quartermaster. His exercises as a cavalry officer and the jovialities of the mess-room occupied much of his time; but he still pursued, though irregularly, his literary studies, and an attachment to a Perthshire lady—though ultimately unfortunate—tended still more strongly to prevent his sinking into idle frivolity or dissipation. In 1796 he published translations of Burger's "Lenore" and "The Wild Huntsman," ballads of singular wildness and power. Next year, while fresh from his first-love disappointment, he was prepared, like Romeo, to "take some new infection to his eye," and meeting at Gilsland, a watering-place in Cumberland, with a young lady of French parentage, Charlotte Margaret Carpenter, he paid his addresses to her, was accepted, and married on the 24th of December.

The lady possessed a small fortune and with this the young couple settled in a neat little cottage at Lassawade, where their happiness was complete. By this time Scott had passed the lighter period of life; his hopes for the future were all ablaze. In 1799 he published his translation of Goethe's tragedy, "Goetz von Berlichingen," and was appointed sheriff of Selkirkshire, at a salary of £300 per annum. With this income added to

ing out Scott's knowledge of the middle and lower ranks of Scottish life, was published in 1816. This year also witnessed the appearance of "The Black Dwarf" and "Old Mortality." Although Scott made an extra effort to keep the authorship of these novels a secret, by changing to a new publisher, yet the universal voice assigned them to the author of "Waverly." "Old Mortality" came laden with the rich spoils of history, and was pronounced the greatest of Scott's performances. In 1818 "Rob Roy" and "The Heart of Mid-Lothian" were published. "Rob Roy" presented beautiful pictures of Highland scenery and manners, and aroused the old enthusiasm that greeted "The Lady of the Lake." "The Bride of Lammermoor," a story of sustained and overwhelming pathos, appeared in 1819, conjointly with "The Legend of Montrose." "Ivanhoe," the historical romance, was published in 1820. The scene of this novel belongs to the time of Richard I of England. In 1820 "The Monastery" and "The Abbot" appeared, and in the succeeding year "Kenilworth," which ranked next to "Ivanhoe." "The Fortunes of Nigel," an English historical romance of the time of James I, belongs to 1822, and to the succeeding year, the following three works of fiction: "Peveril of the Peak," "Quentin Durward," and "St. Ronan's Well." "Quentin Durward" was a raid into French history. "The French nation exulted in this new proof of the genius of Scott, and led the way in an enthusiastic admiration of the work." In 1824 he published "Redgauntlet;" "The Tales of the Crusades" in 1825, being two tales entitled "The Betrothed" and "The Talisman," the latter a splendid eastern romance.

At this time came the break in Scott's fortunes, to which we referred in speaking of his connection with the publishing house. The commercial distresses of 1825-'26 fell upon publishers as on other classes, and the bankruptcy of Constable & Company involved the poet in losses and engagements to a very large amount. His wealth, indeed, had been almost wholly illusory, for he had been paid for his work chiefly by bills, and these ultimately proved valueless. In the management of his publishing house, Scott's sagacity seems to have forsaken him; unsalable works were printed in thousands; and while these losses were yearly accumulating, the princely hospitalities at Abbotsford knew no check or pause. Heavy was the day of

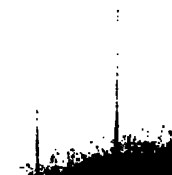
reckoning—terrible the reverse; for when the spell broke in January, 1826, it was found that, including the Constable engagements, Scott's commercial liabilities exceeded £120,000, and there was a private debt of £10,000. He would listen to no overtures of composition with his creditors—his only demand was for time. He ceased "doing the honors for all Scotland," sold off his Edinburgh house, and taking lodgings there labored incessantly at his literary tasks. "The fountain was awakened from its inmost recesses, as if the spirit of affliction had troubled it in its passage." Before his death the commercial debt was reduced to £54,000. Our strongest admiration is aroused by the terrible energy with which he continued his work. "The Life of Napoleon," in nine volumes, appeared in 1827; "The Two Drovers," "The Highland Widow," and "The Surgeon's Daughter," in the beginning of 1828. This constituted the first series of "The Chronicles of Canongate," and in the latter part of the same year he published the second series, entitled "The Fair Maid of Perth." At the same time Scott was preparing his "Tales of a Grandfather," "History of Scotland," for Lardner's "Cyclopedia," "Letters on Demonology," and collected numerous notes for his novels. In 1829 he was ready with the romance entitled "Anne of Geierstein."

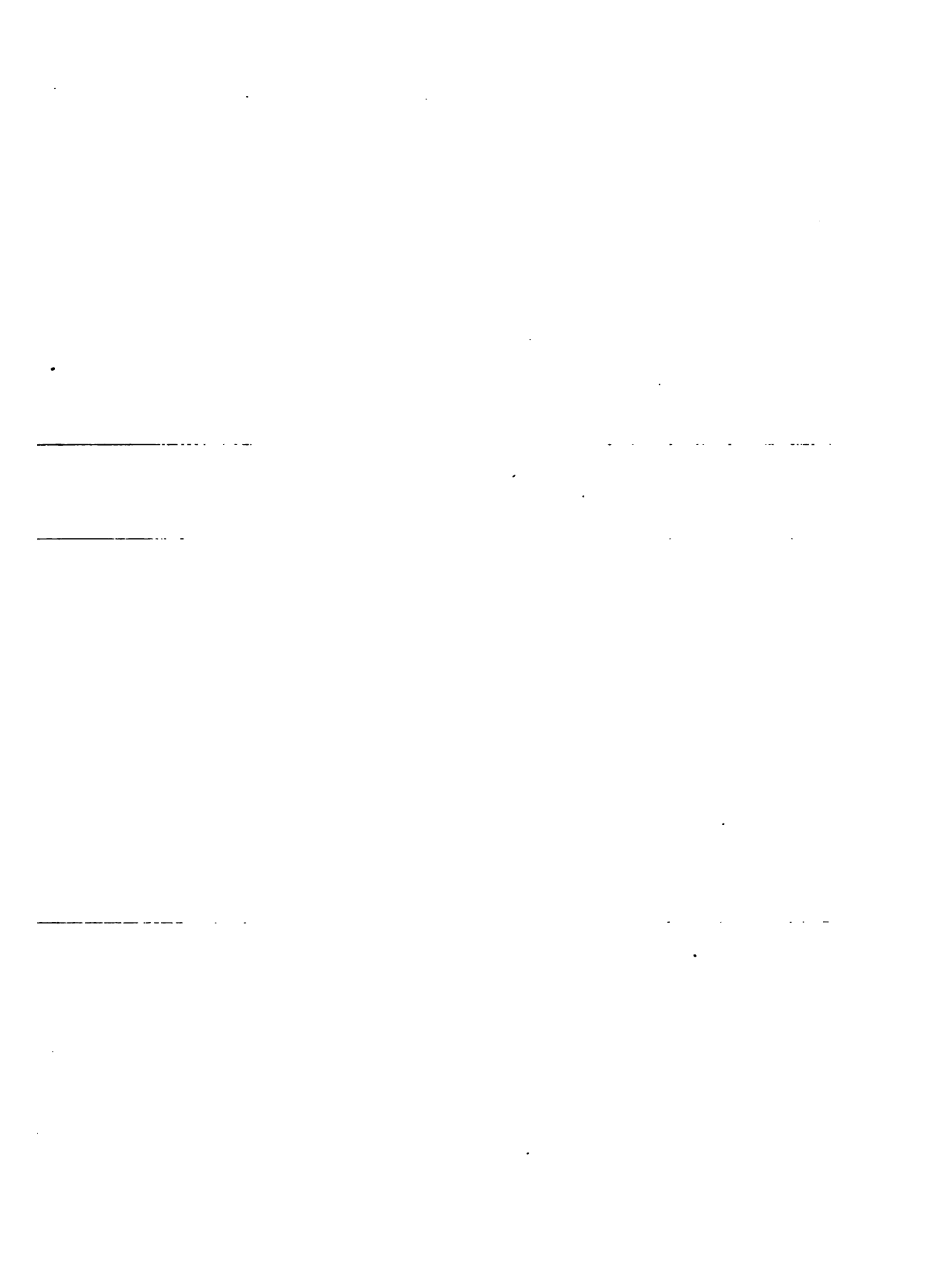
Disease was fast taking his strength, but his pen never faltered. It produced less rapidly, perhaps, but retained most of its power. After repeated shocks of paralysis and apoplexy he wrote "Count Robert of Paris," "Castle Dangerous," and published them in 1831. These tales were imperfect, but they closed the work of the noble mind that had so long swayed the sceptre of romance. "In April, 1831, he suffered a still more severe attack, and he was prevailed upon, as a means of withdrawing him from mental labor, to undertake a foreign tour. The Admiralty furnished a ship of war and the poet sailed for Malta and Naples. At the latter place he resided from the 17th of December, 1831, to the 16th of April following. He still labored at unfinished romances, but his mind was in ruins. From Naples the poet went to Rome. On the 11th of May, he began his return homeward, and reached London on the 13th of June. Another attack of apoplexy, combined with paralysis, had laid prostrate his powers, and he was conveyed to Abbotsford a helpless and almost unconscious wreck. He lingered on for some

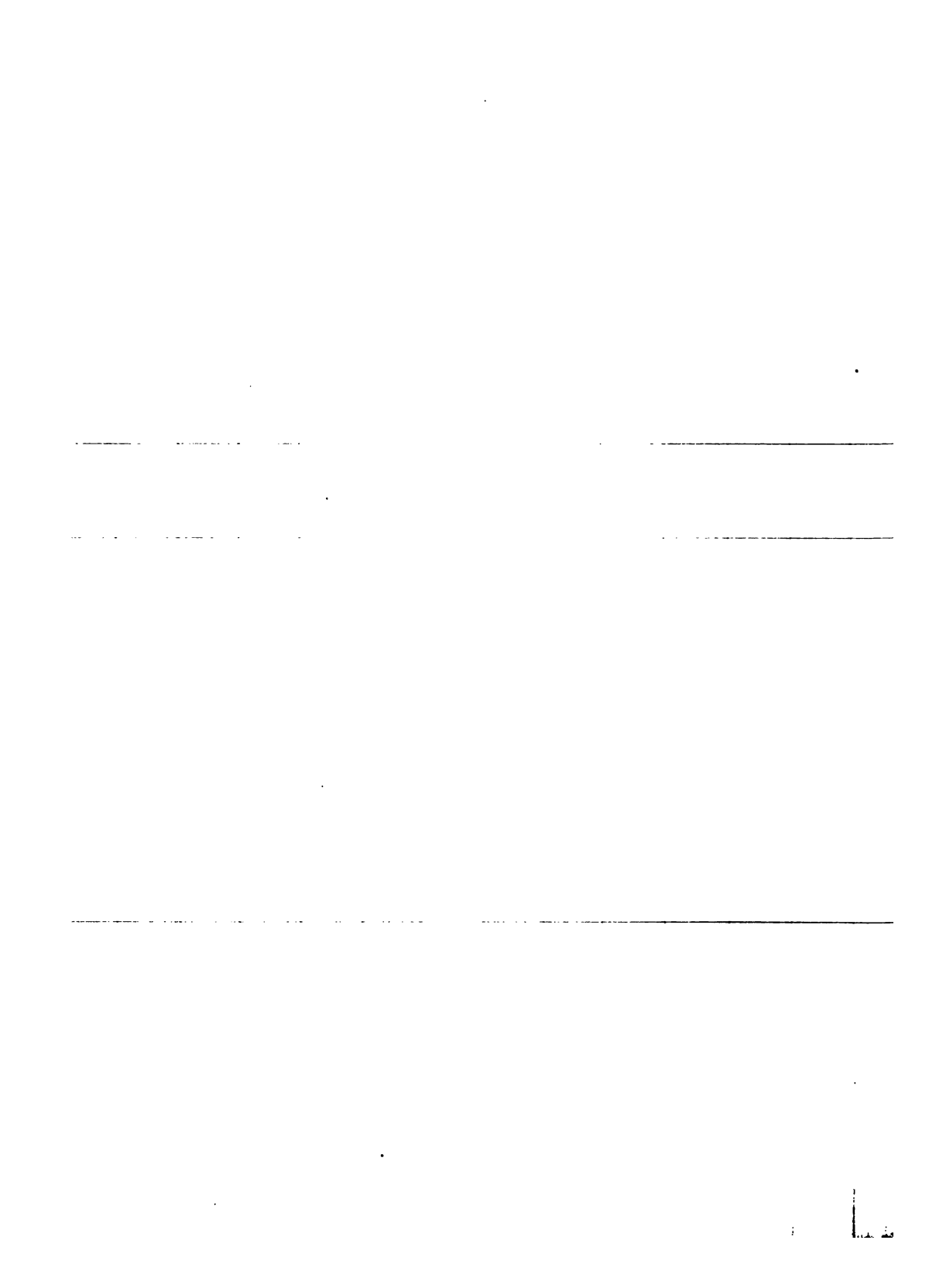
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time, listening occasionally to passages read to him from the Bible, and from his favorite author Crabbe. Once he attempted to write, but his fingers would not close upon the pen. He never spoke of his literary labors or success. At times his imagination was busy preparing for the reception of the Duke of Wellington at Abbotsford, at other times he was exercising the functions of Scottish judge as if presiding at the trial of members of his own family. His mind never appeared to wander in its delirium toward those works which had filled all Europe with his fame. This fact is of interest in literary history. But the contest was soon to be over; 'the plough was nearing the end of the furrow.' 'About half-past one P. M.,' says Mr. Lockhart, 'on the 21st of September, 1832, Sir Walter breathed his last, in the presence of all his children. It was a beautiful day—so warm that every window was open—and so perfectly still that the sound of all others most delicious to his ear, the gentle ripple of the Tweed over its pebbles, was distinctly audible as we knelt around the bed, and his eldest son kissed and closed his eyes.'"

Upon his death his life insurance reduced his debt to £30,000, and the publisher of his works, Mr. Robert Cadell, assumed the debt in return for the copyright of Scott's works. The estate of Abbotsford was freed from all incumbrances, through the sale of the great author's works. Not only this, but the publisher was enabled to buy himself an estate, and leave his family a fortune of about half a million dollars. The unexpired copyrights Mr. Cadell sold just before his death, to Adam Black & Co., for £17,000. It is a marvelous comment on the popularity of Scott's works. A debt of over half a million paid within twenty years, and a fortune of nearly an equal amount piled up from the pen of the "Great Wizard of the North."







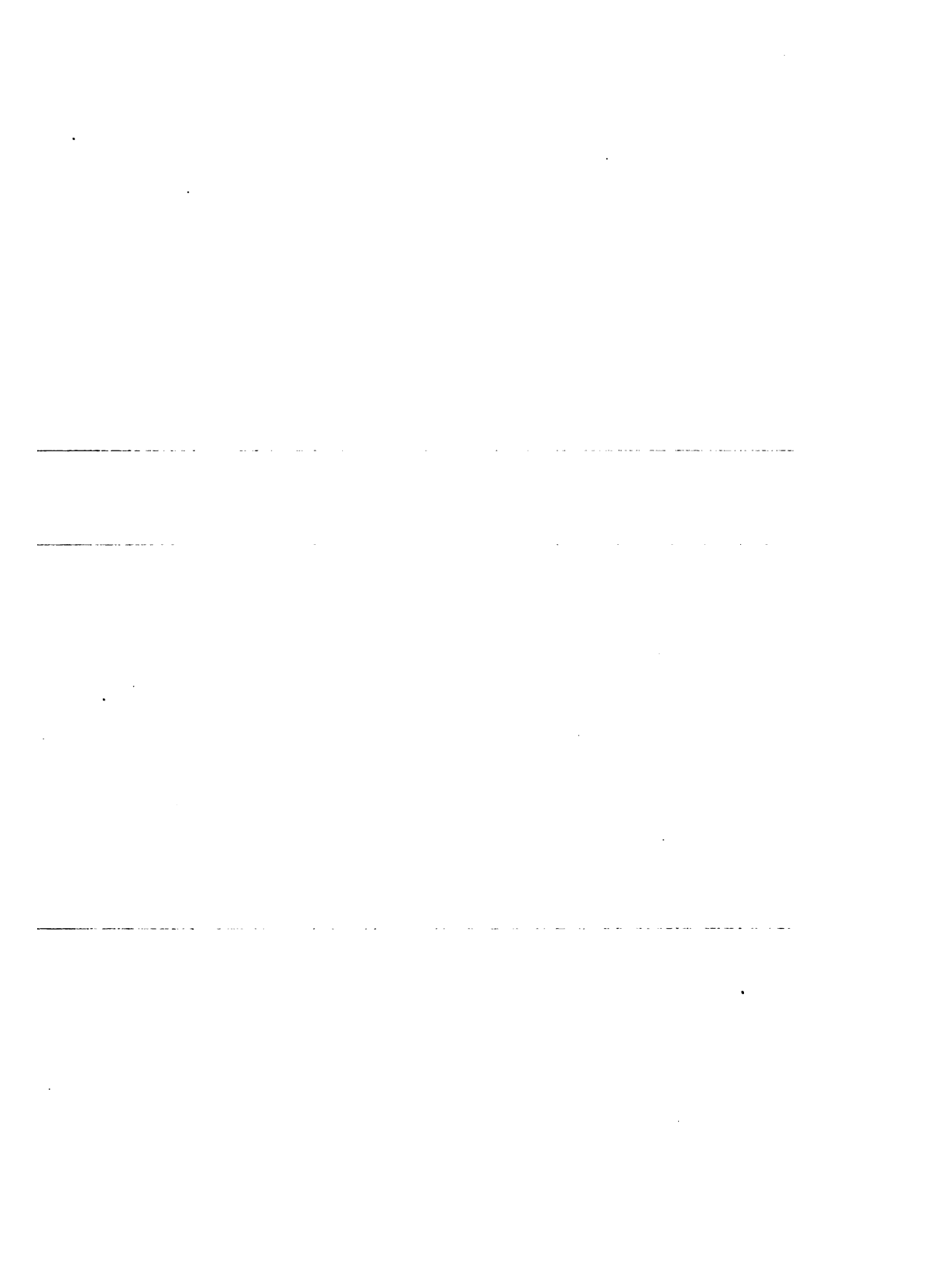
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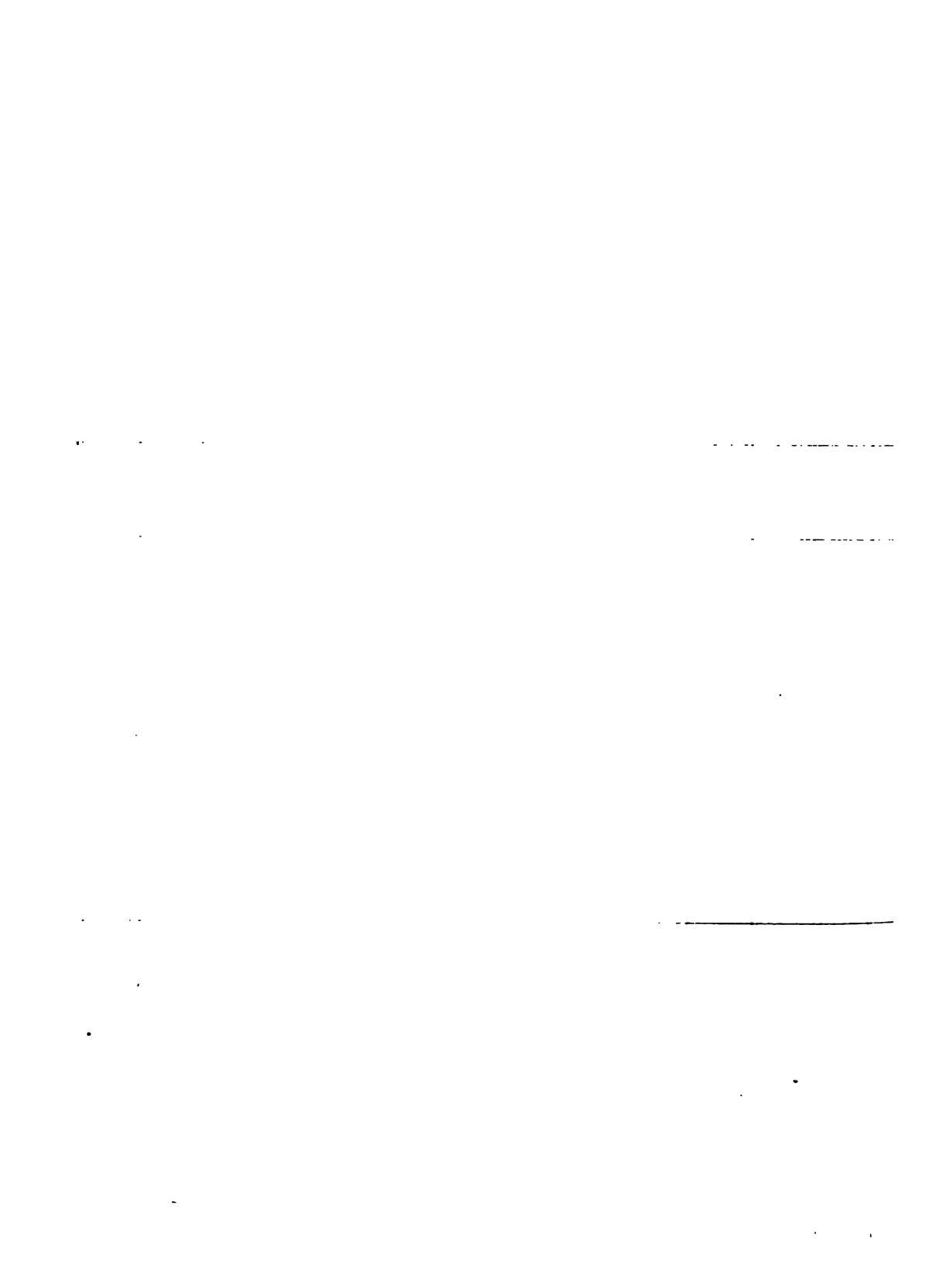
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